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BIRD-NOTES.

THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY :: :: ::

59.82:06(

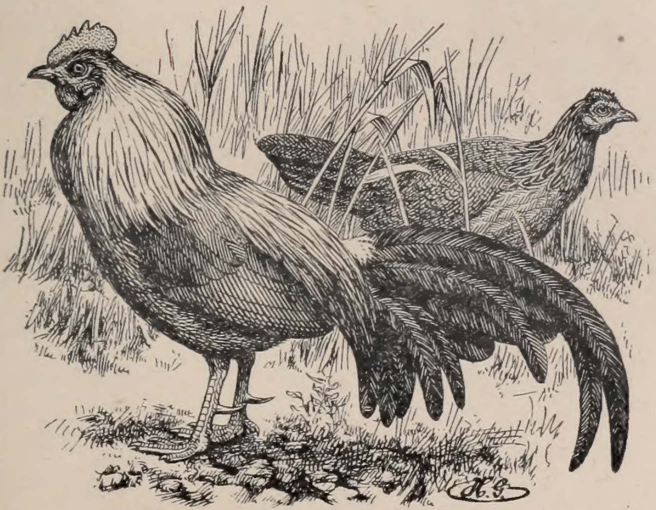
VOLUME VI.—NEW SERIES.

"By mutual confidence and mutual aid,
Great deeds are done and great discoveries made."

EDITED BY

WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.,

AUTHOR OF "AVIARIES AND AVIARY LIFE," ETC.



Bankiva Jungle-Fowl.

ASHBOURNE:
J. H. HENSTOCK, THE "AVIAN PRESS,"
1915.

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Secretary's Report.

◆

An ordinary report is not possible because of the extraordinary times, and, in view thereof a most pleasing duty falls to my lot in being able to report that a useful year's work has been accomplished and our numbers remain about normal.

With the December issue of "BIRD NOTES" another volume of our Journal has been completed. The high standard which the Magazine had attained in 1914 has been (I think all will agree) fully maintained.

Our best thanks are due to our Hon. Editor for his splendid work throughout the year, Few know the amount of work required in normal times to produce a Journal like ours, but this year, owing to the war, the office of Editor has been doubly difficult, and Mr. Page is therefore to be heartily congratulated on the result he has achieved.

When our Roll of Members appears in January, I am pleased to say it will contain many new names, but alas! others will be missing. Some of our members have given their lives for their country on the battlefields of France and elsewhere, and when the war is over we hope to make out a Roll of Honour to our dead. Among these are some whose articles proved very interesting to our members: may I ask others to do their best to help our Editor by sending either photos or manuscript, or both? By doing so you will not only greatly assist him, but also help to keep "BIRD NOTES" in the front rank of avicultural literature.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS.

December, 1915.

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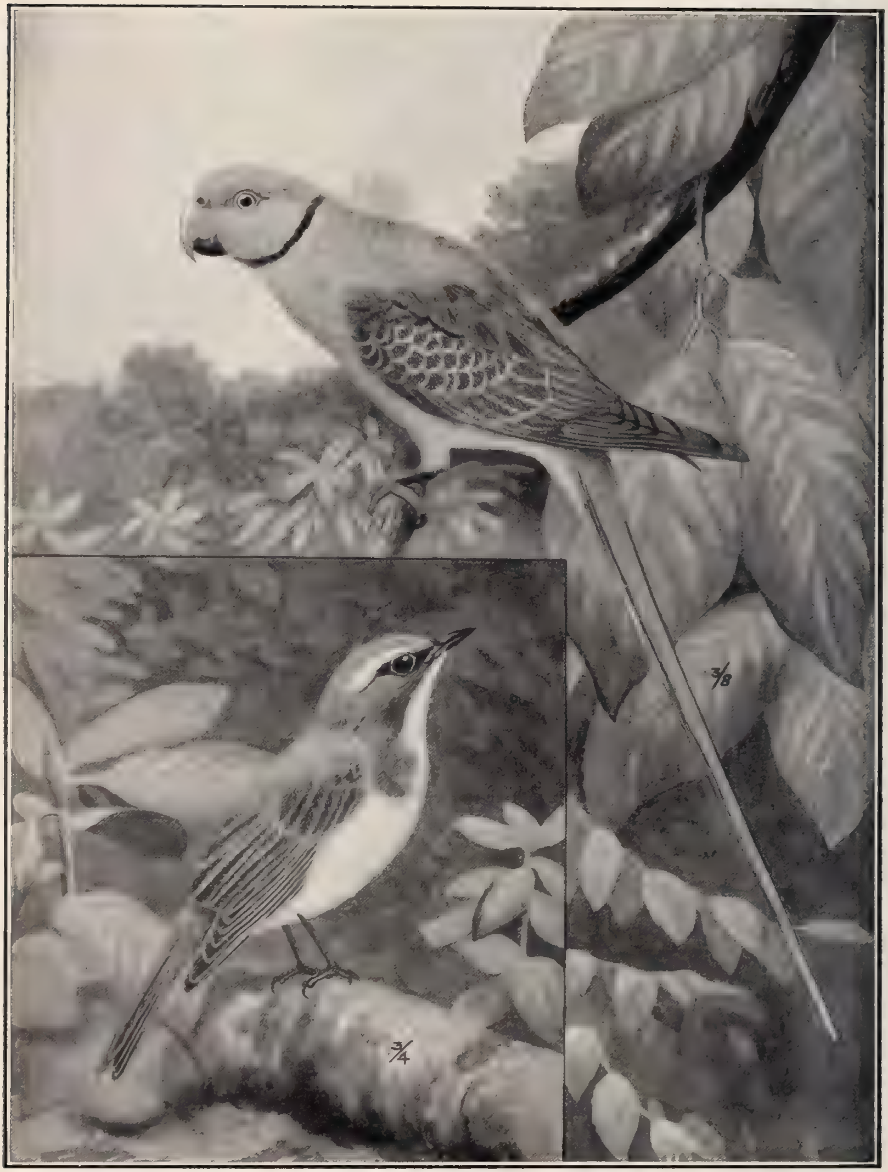

Upper Figure—Malabar Parrakeet (*Palaernis peristerodes*).

AVIAN PRESS PROCESS.

Lower Figure—White eye-browed Blue and White Flycatcher (*Muscicapula superciliaris*, Jerd.)

From life by H. Goodchild.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Foreign Birds at the Horticultural Hall (L.C.B.A.) Show.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

The national crisis through which we are passing, while it left its impress in the absence of the birds of some well known exhibitors, and undoubtedly, combined with the weather, seriously affected the gate, did not prevent the staging of a notable series of birds, including many of, great rarity, beauty and interest. Certainly a finer lot of Foreign birds have never previously been staged at any show, and it must stand out as notable in the coming years.

In our Club Journal we have referred to Mr. A. Ezra's success with small and fragile softbills many times, but he and a French aviculturist have fully demonstrated that it is possible to keep Humming-Birds in captivity, and to keep them in a condition of health and plumage, little, if anything, below that of wild nature itself. Of course they need untiring and watchful care, but, given this, the greatest difficulty is to get the birds. Mr. Ezra feeds his Hummers on the same liquid food that he gives his Sunbirds, but the Hummers mostly take it hovering; I have seen the Garnet-throated Humming-Bird sipping the syrup, while perching on the food vessel. Their cage must be maintained at a minimum of 70 deg. F.

For the benefit of those members unable to get to the show, I will briefly describe the cage. It was of the box-type, about 18 inches long, 24 inches to 30 inches high, by about 12 inches deep. It was fitted with a detachable wire front, behind which was a square of glass, which could be raised or removed altogether through a slot in top of cage. The base of cage was fitted with a metal heating-chamber, the heat being supplied by night lights, from one to four being used according to requirements. As regards furnishings, a spray of fine twigs occupied one corner of the cage. In the midst of this was fixed a bunch of orchids and feathery fern leaves, before which the bird frequently hovered; on the opposite side of the cage was fixed the syrup cup, in front of which the bird hovered, sipping as if from a flower. The cage-bottom was covered with moss, the whole effect a fitting setting for such wee sprites and forming an entrancing picture of captive, yet happy bird-life. The thermometers at back of cage mostly registered 75 degrees during the period of show.

One would fain linger, but space forbids, and the report will, I fear, be all too long as it is, but seeing that at least 80 per cent. of the exhibits were sent by members of F.B.C., a fairly full account thereof is called for in our pages.

The following, I believe, to be species which have not hitherto been exhibited at an English show, but time at my disposal has not permitted of any searching of records.

Hahn's Macaw (*Ara hahni*), Miss A. B. Smyth.
Brown-fronted Conure (*Conurus ocularis*), A. Silver.
Aztec Conure (*C. aztec*), J. Frostick.
Euops (Speckled) Conure (*C. euops*), C. T. Maxwell.
Crimson-ringed Whydah (*Penthetria laticauda*), R. E. Simpson.
Red-headed Bullfinches (*Pyrrhula erythrocephala*), A. Ezra.
Garnet-throated Humming-Bird (*Eulampis jugularis*), A. Ezra.
Ricordi's Humming-Bird (*Sporadinus ricordi*), A. Ezra.
(?) Australian Zosterops (*Zosterops caerulescens*), Miss L. Clare.
Bullock's Hangnest (*Icterus bullocki*), A. Silver.
Wedge-tailed Hangnest (*Heteropsar acuticauda*), A. Silver.
Chinese Rosy Starlings (*Poliopsar leucocephalus*), several
(?) Black-gorgeted Laughing-Thrushes (*Garrulax pectoralis*), Dr. Lovell-Keays.
White-eyebrowed Blue Flycatcher (*Muscicapula superciliaris*), A. Ezra.

And probably others. The total entries in this section were 319.

The Hall was kept at a comfortable temperature, but the lighting was not so good as usual, owing to the top light being screened in consequence of war-time. The management left nothing to be desired, though the birds might, with advantage, be placed on higher staging one had to be continually on the stoop to see the majority of this section.

The Hon. Mrs. Bourke, and Mr. V. Wynn, looked after the Insectivorous and Frugivorous species; Mrs. Thyme, Mr. J. Dewhurst, etc., who cared for the seed-eaters; and to their voluntary labour exhibitors are indebted for the excellent condition of the birds at the close of the show.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith judged the Parrot Classes (155 to 163); Mr. H. D. Astley, Classes, 166, 176 to 185; and Mr. R. J. Watts the remainder, viz.: 164-5, 167 to 175, and 186 to 188.

CLASS 155. ALL SPECIES COCKATOOS, ETC. (8). The rarest bird here was a Hahn's Macaw (*Ara hahni*), one of the smaller Macaws, having a total length of 13 inches, of which the tail measures nearly 6. The general body colour is green lightly washed with yellowish beneath; forehead and band above the eyes blue; bend of wing and under wing-coverts scarlet; bare skin round eyes whitish; beak black. Its range is Guiana, Trinidad, and Rio Branco. An elegantly formed bird, which will greatly improve after the next moult.

The other seven exhibits are all well known species.

1, Miss A. B. Smyth, Hahn's Macaw; 2, 4, Mrs. Taylor, Bare-eyed. and L. Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. both good; 3, D. Mason. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, very smart; 5, M. E. Newmarsh, Red and Yellow Macaw (wrongly described in catalogue as Military Macaw, which is nearly all green); 6, 7, T. Dawson, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. A very good and tame Roseate Cockatoo was also staged.

CLASS 156. GREY AND AMAZON PARROTS (17). The most uncommon here were the Green-cheeked, Salvin's and Double-fronted Amazons. No less than six each of Grey Parrots, and Blue-fronted Amazons were staged, the former not being so fine a lot as the writer has seen in the past, though including some good birds; while the latter demonstrated to some extent the variability of colour arrangement common to this species.

1, Miss J. Smyth, Green-cheeked Amazon, excellent colour, tight and silky; 2, J. Frostick, excellent Double-fronted Amazon; 3, 4, A. Silver, Salvin's and Mealy Amazon, a beautiful couple; 5 J. Dewhurst, a good Grey 6, Mrs. Johnstone, 7, J. Ditchfield, two good Blue-fronts.

CLASS 157. LOVEBIRDS. ETC. (15). An interesting class, but the placing caused much dissatisfaction and comment. An excellent pair of Red-faced Lovebirds of Miss A. B. Smyth's were very unfortunate in being unplaced. No less than five species of Lovebirds (if we include Blue-wings) and two *Brotogerys* were staged; all were good, several exceptionally so. Dr. Lovell-Keays exhibited two of the best and tightest Red-headed Lovebirds the writer has ever seen, but they were two cocks, and so had to be passed. A most interesting lot.

1, 6, Miss A. B. Smyth, Peach-faced Lovebirds and Tui Parrakeets, the latter might have been higher; 2, Dr. Lovell-Keays, charming pair of Orange-flanked Parrakeets, like silk, finger tame; 3, 7, C. T. Maxwell, Black-cheeked and Peach-faced Lovebirds, the former very rich colour and in perfect condition; 4, 5, A. Silver, Blue-winged (Passerine Parrakeets) Lovebirds, and Madagascar Lovebirds, the latter very fine, but certainly a trifle lucky.

CLASS 158. A.O.S. PARROTS, INCLUDING ECLECTI (14). Here were staged the most interesting of the Parrots. The rarest being the Short-tailed Parrot (*Pachynus brachyurus*), which, I think, is new to the show-bench; its habitat is the Upper Amazons and Ecuador. Two pairs of Meyer's Parrots were staged: one pair (1st) had the yellow areas on head and wing large and clearly defined, the other pair (3rd) having no yellow on the head, and were either a distinct local race, of which there are quite a number, or immature birds, the green of the upper abdomen being much mottled.

1, Rev. G. H. Raynor, pair Meyer's Parrots, rich colour and perfect: 2, C. T. Maxwell, very fine Black-headed Caique (Caica melanocephala). also known as the White-breasted Parrot, beautiful and uncommon; 3, Miss A. B. Smyth, pair Meyer's Parrots, good condition, but evidently in immature plumage; 4, Mrs. Frost, richly coloured Senegal Parrot; 5, Mrs. Moore, Short-tailed Parrot, rare but not in show condition; 6, J. Frostick, good Eclectus; 7, Miss D. Thynne, Red-vented Parrot.

CLASS 159. GREEN BUDGERIGARS (12). This freely imported but really beautiful species perhaps merits the title of everybody's bird more than any other species. While all were good, well feathered and mostly large birds, there was a great difference in depth of colour and regularity and definition of markings, the 1st being a grand pair of birds, with 2nd and 3rd pretty close up.

1, J. Frostick; 2, A. J. Shipton; 3, Mrs. Hay; 4, Mrs. Bayley Ransom; 5, C. R. Tyson; 6, 7, A. Silver.

CLASS 160. CERTAIN NAMED PARRAKEETS (16). Here were staged three species Euops, Aztec, and Brown-fronted Conures, all first appearances the former (*Conurus euops*) was figured in colour and fully described in last vol. "B.N.," the Aztec (*C. aztec*), rare but not an attractive species, while the third (*C. ocularis*) differs but little from the fairly well known Brown-throated Conure. Comment must be made upon the splendour of Dr. Lovell-Keays' exquisite Malabar Parrakeet "spick and span," "immaculate masher," but feebly describe its condition; the colouration was rich and pure, beautifully blended, the delicate tracery of the wings too lovely for words, perfect bloom, and every feather lying tight as if waxed. A most interesting array.

1, Dr. Lovell-Keays, Malabar Parrakeet, easy first; 2 Miss L, Clare, exquisite Red-rump; 3, Mrs. Frost, Plum-head, perfect; 4, C. T. Maxwell, Euops (Speckled) Conure, rare, not tight; 5, A. Silver, Rosella, very rich colour; 6, 7, J. Frostick, Aztec Conure, rare, not in show condition, and very fine Ring-necked Parrakeet. Some good Cockateels and an Alexandrin Parrakeet also competed.

CLASS 161. A.S. LORIES, ETC. (7). The rarest bird here was Mr. Maxwell's beautiful Red-fronted Lory (*Chalcopsittacus scintillans*); though rare this species has appeared on the show-bench on several previous occasions, while all were good, the depth of colour in some of the Red-collared Lorikeets was very fine. A rare display of fiery tropical hues.

1, 4, C. T. Maxwell, Red-fronted Lory, in perfect form, good first, and a richly-coloured pair of Red-collared Lorikeets; 2, Mrs. Moore charming Red-capped or Ceylonese Hanging Parrakeet; 3, W. S. Smith, very fine pair of Yellow-backed Lories; 5, Mrs. Longden, Red-collared Lorikeet, exquisite colour; 6, C. Roehl, pair R. C. Lorikeets, tight, but not so rich in colour as those above; 7, J. Frostick, Crimson Lory, perfect form, dazzling colour.

CLASS 162. A.S. BROADTAILS ETC. (4). A small entry, all good birds, but well known species.

1, Hon. Mrs. MacLaren Morrison, pair Mealy Rosellas, in perfect trim; 2, J. Frostick, King Parrakeet, a blaze of colour; 3, Mrs. Frost, Barnard's Parrakeet, slightly rough; 4, A. J. Shipton, Yellow-naped Parrakeet, good colour, but not as tight as might be.

CLASS 163. GRASS PARRAKEETS, ETC. (2). Only two entrants, but both exquisite, Miss L. Clare taking premier position with her well known pair of Queen Alexandra Parrakeets, and Miss A. B. Smyth following with the most perfect Bourke's Parrakeet the writer has ever seen.

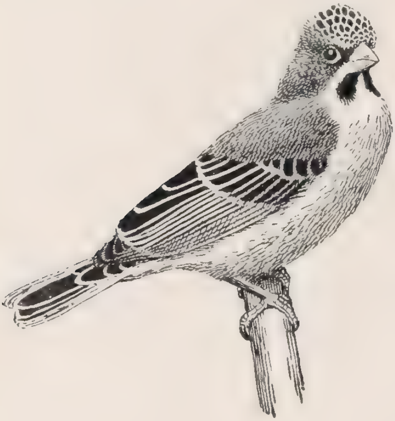
CLASS 164. CERTAIN COLOUR VARIETIES (9). Not calling for special comment, but the writer would suggest that breeders of Yellow Budgerigars should aim at getting the colour pure and eliminating the wing lacing as far as possible, or go for the two varieties, viz., a self-yellow as near as it can be got, and a good yellow body with distinct dusky scaling on wings.

1, A. J. Shipton, good pair Yellow Budgerigars, good body colour, but scaling on wings rather distinct; 2, 4, 5, 6, A. Silver, Fawn and White Bengalese, pair Yellow Budgerigars (not so pure a colour as above), Chocolate and White Bengalese, and White Java Sparrows, the latter pure, large, immaculate; 3, Madame Feist Madewell, White Java Sparrow, pure but not so large as above, 7, Miss J. E. Smyth, Choc. and White Bengalese.

CLASS 165. COMMON MANNIKINS (7). The condition of these birds must for ever refute the charge that birds cannot be happily kept in cages. Birds that were unhappy and continually craving for their "native heath" could never show the immaculate condition of these exhibits, and this applies more or less generally all through this section.

1, F. Howe, White-headed Mannikins, beyond praise; 2, Miss M. Bousfield, Grey Java Sparrows, "spick and span"; 3, 4, 5, A. Silver, Magpie, Tri-coloured, and Bronze Mannikins, all good; 6, R. E. Simpson, good pair Spice Finches, cock typical, hen of separate local race; 7, L. M. Wade, nice pair Magpie Mannikins.

CLASS 166. A.S. WEAVERS, WHYDAHS, ETC. (11). A most interesting class: Good specimens of Jackson's, and Crimson-ringed Whydahs (I think a first appearance), Brown-backed Weaver, and an interesting Melanistic Orange Weaver, entirely brownish-black, with the orange areas only faintly indicated at the bases of the feathers of back of neck and lower back.



1, C. T. Maxwell, Jackson's Whydah, rare, steady, perfect, grand tail; 2, Mrs. D. Longdon, Queen Whydah, lovely bird, but rather lucky, as one of its long tail-plumes was missing—otherwise perfect; 3, W. J. C. Frost, lovely pair Scaly-crowned Finches, perfect, but lucky in such company; 4, R. E. Simpson, Crimson-ringed Whydah, needs another moult to bring out full colour, but nevertheless hardly treated; 5, Dr. Lovell-Keays, Brown-backed Weaver, uncommon, pure colour, tight and silky, but rather wild, otherwise might have been higher; 6, J. Goodall, good Paradise Whydahs, Orange and Crimson-crowned Weavers were also staged.

CLASS 167. RIBBON AND ZEBRA FINCHES, ETC. (19). A goodly array of the "Freely Imported Species," with every entry in good form, but the pair of Combasous taking premier honours were beyond praise, both ♂ and ♀ being immaculate and very steady.

1, 4, F. Howe; exquisite pair Combasous, beyond praise and equally good pair of Ribbon Finches; 2, W. Buckingham, perfect pair Af. Silver-bills; 3, Mrs. Thynne, nice pair Zebra Finches; 5, 6, A. Silver, Saffron Finches (wild), and Combasous; 7, Hathaway, pair Zebra Finches.

CLASS 168. GOULDIAN FINCHES (11). As usual these well known favourites excited much admiration. All were good but the bird taking premier honours was certainly all that a Red-headed Gouldian should be. A very interesting exhibit was the cock of a pair of Black-heads; in this specimen the colouration was dark generally, but the head and neck were entirely black, with the blue collar very obscurely indicated; it was a very beautiful bird.

1, 2, Miss M. Bousfield, Red-headed Gouldian, beyond praise and pair Black-heads, very tight and silky; 3, C. H. Row, exquisite pair Red-heads, hen exceptionally good colour; 4, 7, J. Frostick, pairs of Black-heads, very little below those above; 5, P. Muscott, good Red-head (♂); 6, Mrs. D. Longden, nice pair Black-heads.

CLASS 169. RARER GRASSFINCHES AND BUNTINGS (8). Not a large entry, but all of interest and quality, the Pintail Parrot Finches being exceptional. The rarest was Mr. C. H. Row's exquisite pair of Fire-tailed Finches.

1, C. H. Row, pair Fire-tailed Finches, perfect; 2, 6, Dr. Lovell-Keays, pair Parrot Finches and Rainbow Bunting; both in first order, but the latter rather small; 3, 5, C. T. Maxwell, good Rainbow Bunting and pair Parrot Finches, the latter slightly rough; 4 Miss M. Bousfield, exquisite Pintail Parrot Finch; 7, Mrs. D. Longden, another Pintail, also in excellent form. A perfect Crimson Finch also competed, and experienced rather hard luck in being unnoted.

CLASS 170. A.O.S. GRASSFINCHES, ETC. (13). A most interesting lot, all in perfect form, but not calling for special comment, save perhaps than to remark that a better pair of Masked Grassfinches has never been staged than those taking premier honours.

1, Miss M. Bousfield, Masked Grassfinches, good first; 2, J. Goodchild, nice pair Diamond Finches; 3, 7, J. Frostick, L.T. Grassfinches and Chestnut Finches, both pairs in fine form; 4, W. J. C. Frost, good Diamond Finches; 5, C. H. Row, nice pair Bicheno's Finches; 6, A. Silver, pair Red-headed Finches.

CLASS 171. COMMON FIREFINCHES, ETC. (22). The largest entry in the Foreign section, and though all are cheaply to be obtained species, yet there was a galaxy of beauty which certainly rivalled that ot many of the rarer groups. Their owners too merit congratulations for the general excellence in which their exhibits were staged.

1, W .Buckingham, Gold-breasted Waxbills, very rich colour and tight; 2, 7, H. Brumbridge, good pairs of Firefinches and Cordon Bleus; 3, F. Howe, pair Cordon Bleus, cock wee bit rough; 4, A. Silver, pair Lavender Finches, cock rough; 5, J. Goodchild, nice Green Avadavat; 6, C. T. Maxwell, good pair Firefinches.

CLASS 172. COMMON AVADAVATS, ETC. (12). Another group of Common (so called) species, which caused many to pause and admire.

1, 5, F. Howe, St. Helena Waxbills, leader perfect, finer never staged; 2, Miss M. Bousfield, flawless pair Grey Waxbills; 3, Dr. Lovell-Keays, pair Orange-cheek Waxbills, very rich colour, tight and silky; 4, Mrs. Thynne, good pair St. Helena Waxbills; 6, 7, A. Silver, good pairs of Orange-cheek and Grey Waxbills.

CLASS 173. A.O.S. WAXBILLS (10). No comment needed, but every exhibit a marvel of beauty, the rarest being Peter's Spotted Firefinch.

1, Miss M. Bousfield, Violet-eared Waxbills, exquisite condition; 2, Mrs. Thynne, charming pair Sydney Waxbills, faultless; 3, F. Howe, perfect Melba Finch; 4, Mrs. D. Longden, nice Violet-eared Waxbill; 5, W. J. C. Frost, good pair Blue-breasted Waxbills; 6, A. Silver, nice pair Bar-breasted Firefinches, rare but not in show condition; 7, Dr. Lovell-Keays, lovely Violet-eared Waxbill, trifle small, but rich colour, very tight and silky, hardly treated. A good specimen of Peter's Spotted Firefinch also staged, but was passed owing to a badly carried wing, the result of a past fracture; otherwise perfect.

CLASS 174. A.S. CARDINALS (6). While all were well-known, it was pleasing to see and compare four species. All were in good form.

1, W. J. C. Frost, pair Virginians; 2, 3, 5, A. Silver, Pope, Green and Virginian; 4, G. Oliver, Red-crested; 6, C. Roehl, Red-crested.

CLASS 175. A.O. TRUE FINCHES, ETC. (8). Here was another first appearance, viz.: Red-headed Bullfinch, but though in good condition the cock lacked the lovely orange-red head of the wild bird. A Sepoy Finch was also shown, but being cage-moulted was deep yellow instead of the rich crimson of the species when at liberty. Another rarity was an interesting Himalayan Goldfinch. It was also of interest to see the Japanese and Black-tailed Hawfinches together, but these are noted and figured elsewhere in this issue.

1, A. Ezra, Red-headed Bullfinches, a first appearance; 2, E. Hathaway, good cock Sepoy Finch, yellow instead of crimson, lucky; 3, Dr. Lovell-Keays, exquisite pair Hooded Siskins, both birds perfect, very rich colour, tight as wax, better never seen, should have been 2nd; 4, Miss A. B. Smyth, Black-tailed Hawfinches, splendid pair of birds, faultless; 5, A. Silver, Japanese Hawfinch, perfect in every way; 6, W. Larking, nice Himalayan Goldfinch, rare, but not so brightly coloured as our indigenous species; it is lighter coloured, blaze not so rich a hue, no black on head or white above the eye; the wings of the two species are similar, but in the Himalayan species the yellow band is slightly narrower, the primaries are entirely black and the three inner secondaries have white outer webs; the beak is very sharply pointed and not so deep at the base as the English species. 7, Mrs. Chope, Alario Finch, rather rough.

CLASS 176. DOVES, QUAILS, ETC. (7). This class might have been handled differently, rarity was apparently unnoticed, and birds in loose plumage placed above them.

1, W. J. C. Frost, Emerald Spotted Doves, steady and tight; 2, O. J. Stone, Californian Quails, exquisite condition but very lucky; 3, Madame Madewell, pair Masked Doves, plumage loose; 4, J. Frostick, Montezuma Quail, rare, a first appearance I think, should have been higher; 5, C. Harris, Triangular-spotted Pigeons, perfect pair, another probable first appearance, might have been second; 6, A. Wallington, Cape Doves, plumage not tight; 7, W. J. C. Frost, Button Quail, very steady.

CLASS 177. HUMMING BIRDS, SUNBIRDS ETC. (8).

Here the judge had indeed a hard task, yet there will be very few who would disagree with his placings. Where one is surrounded with an array of exhibits all meriting first prizes, one can only separate them by commencing with the unique, grading down through the rare, uncommon, etc., and even then the task is no sinecure. We have referred to the Humming Birds elsewhere so I will only add here that I do not think fitter birds could be found upon their native heath! Mr. Maxwell's Red Yellow-backed Sunbird was a marvel of beauty, cage-moulted, yet in full natural colour! Messrs. Ezra and Maxwell were the sole entrants in this class and they are to be congratulated upon the possession of such rare and beautiful species. To Mr. Ezra belongs the credit of demonstrating in this country that the keeping of Humming Birds in captivity is not an impossible task.

1 equal (2), A. Ezra, Garnet-throated and Ricordi's Humming Birds, a dream of beauty beyond description; 2, 3, 5, A. Ezra, Greater Double-collared, Southern Malachite, and Lesser Double-collared Sunbirds, all African species, a gorgeous trio, immaculate; 4, 6, 7, C. T. Maxwell, Red Yellow-rumped, Lesser Double-collared (pair) and Malachite Sunbirds, also a gorgeous trio, the former beyond praise. I fain would linger but space forbids.

Class 178. A.S. Sugarbirds, Etc., (8). The rarest here was Miss Clare's beautiful pair of Australian Zosterops. If not a first appearance it has been many years since they were staged. Others all well known species.

1, Miss L. Clare, pair Australian Zosterops, perfect; 2, Hon. Mrs G. Bourke, pair Purple Sugarbirds, exquisite colour, faultless; 3, Lady K. Pilkington, Black-headed Sugarbird, like silk, uncommon; 6, A. Silver, pair Yellow-winged Sugarbirds, perfect, but, in winter plumage.

Class 179. Certain Named Tanagers (3).

1, 2, A. Silver, perfect Violet Tanager, and exquisite pair of Tri-colours; 3, Miss M. Bousfield, well-known Maroon Tanager.

Class 180. A.O.S. Tanagers (5). The rarest here were extremely choice specimens of Blue-headed Euphonia and Black-cheeked Tanagers, both exquisites, and in faultless condition; the same applied to a perfect Festive Tanager, equally beautiful, but not quite so rare as the former species.

1, 2, Lady K. Pilkington, Blue-headed Tanager, resembles a large Violet Tanager with an enamel-blue cap, exquisite condition, and a rare Black-cheeked Tanager (Calliste cayana), like silk, flawless (vide coloured plate in "Bird Notes," Vol. VII., op. p. 137); 3, Miss M. Bousfield, Festive Tanager, well known winner, looking as well as ever, faultless; 4, C. T. Maxwell, Blue-headed Tanager, needs another moult to bring out its full colour; 5, O. J. Stone, nice Necklace Tanager, but looking soft.

CLASS 181. TRUE BULBULS, ETC. (11). The rarest bird here was the Black-crested Yellow Bulbul, an elegantly formed bird with some rich notes, mostly clad in olive-green above and yellowish-olive below, with a black crest. A cock Blue Robin was a welcome return.

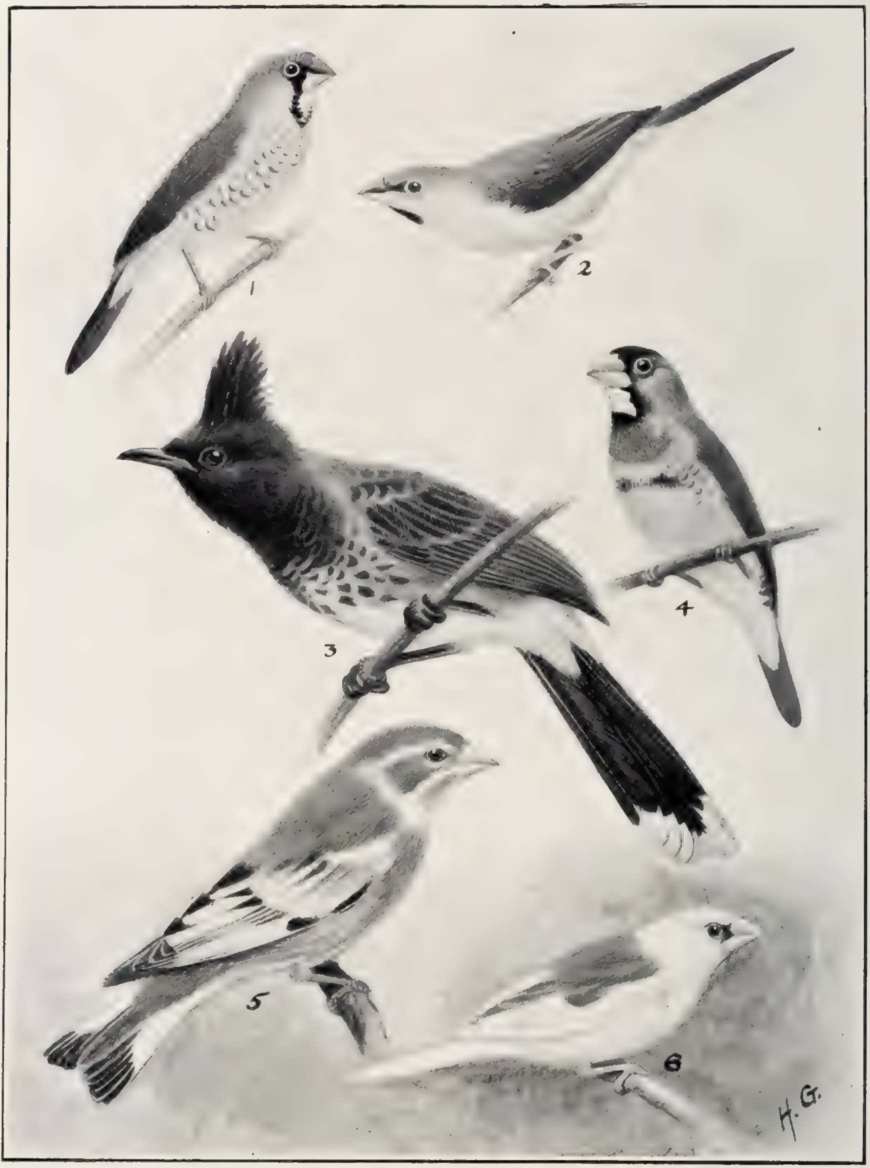
1, Lady K. Pilkington, Black-crested Bulbul, rare and beautiful; 2, W .A. Shepherd, good Blue Robin; 3, A. Silver, Pekin Robin, very rich colour; 4, J. Frostick, Chinese Dhyal Bird, might have been third; 5, Miss A. B. Smyth, nice Shamah; 6, Miss J. Smith, pair Pekin Robins; 7, C. T. Maxwell, also Pekins.

CLASS 182. A.S. CROWS, MYNAHS, ETC. (12). Quite a number of rare species were staged in this class, viz: Bullock's Hangnest (several Hangnests have been wrongly catalogued as this species in past shows), Wedge-tailed Glossy Starling (*Heterospar acuticauda*), Yucatan Jay, Chinese Rosy Starlings, and a most gorgeous pair of Purple-headed Starlings re-introduced the species after an absence of some years.

1, A. Silver, pair Purple-headed Glossy Starlings, better have certainly never been staged; 2, J. Frostick, Yucatan Jay, rare, perfect condition; 3, Mrs. Thynne, Chinese Rosy Starling, clean and in good form; 4, Miss Hawkes, Common Hangnest, rich colour; good condition; 6, L. M. Wade, good Purple-headed Glossy Starling; 7, W. J. C. Frost, pair Chinese Rosy Starlings.

CLASS 183. HYBRIDS, ETC. (9). A most interesting class, representing seven distinct crosses. A reference to the plate opposite will indicate this, and also their varied character, although the female parent in three of the figures was the Bengalese. If one singles out one more than another, perhaps the central figure is of the greatest interest; but, with the figure and Miss Smyth's notes on pages 302 and 403 of last volume, further comment is unnecessary. The Red-headed × Ribbon Finch cross has also been fully described in last volume, of the two pairs staged, their upper parts were very similar, but below one pair favoured the male, and the other the female parent. As in several instances accounts are to appear later, other description than that given below would be out of place.

1, 2, Miss A. B. Smyth, Red-vented × Red-eared Bulbul, very interesting, fine reachy bird, which favours Red-vented species, and nice pair of Red-headed × Ribbon Finch hybrids, in which the latter species is most favoured; 3, 5, W. Shore-Baily, Greenfinch × Himalayan Siskin, both parents are represented both in contour and plumage, but the latter species is most favoured, and a most interesting pair of Spice × Bib Finch; here again both parents are favoured and the size not a great deal smaller than the Spice Finch, about that of a slender Bronze Mannikin; 4, A. Silver, pair Red-headed × Ribbon Finch, size intermediate, favour the



An Interesting Group of Foreign Hybrids.

From life by H. Goodchild.

Red-headed Finch, well spotted below, the crimson band across the throat broad and well defined; 6, L. W. Wade, Magpie Mannikin × Bengalese, practically a Bengalese, splashed on back and wings with slaty-grey, the lores being the same colour; the contour is intermediate between the two species, though the hybrid is not much larger than the Bengalese; 7, Mrs. D. Longden, Silverbill × Bengalese, an interesting shapely bird which strongly favours the former species.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE.

1. Spice × Bib Finch.
2. Silverbill × Bengalese.
3. Red-vented × Red-eared Bulbul.
4 and 6. Magpie Mannikin × Bengalese
5. Greenfinch × Himalayan Siskin.

CLASS 184. A.S. FLYCATCHERS, ETC. (7). Not a large class but every one a gem, the rarest being Mr. A. Ezra's White-eyebrowed Blue Flycatcher, a first appearance, a diminutive exquisite in plumbeous-blue and white (see frontispiece). The other species have all been referred to previously in "Bird Notes," and to avoid juggling with adjectives will simply state that all were faultless and beyond criticism.

1, 2, 4, 5, A. Ezra, White-eyebrowed Blue Flycatcher, Small Minivet, Red-tailed Minla (a coloured plate will appear in a near issue), and Rufous-bellied Niltava; 3, 6, Lady K. Pilkington, pair Black-chinned Yuhinas and Loo Choo Robin; 7, D. Mason, Japanese Red-breast. A class in which very little, either in rarity or merit separated the first, intermediates, and last placed birds. Nevertheless, I think few would differ with the placings.

CLASS 185. BIRDS OF PARADISE, ETC. (4). Only three of the four entries were present, and all were interesting and rare, and the King Bird of Paradise truly regal, without a flaw, the writer opines that the wild bird, fresh from its native haunts, could not out rival this perfect specimen—to attempt further praise would be to belittle it.

1, A. Ezra, King Bird of Paradise, faultless; 2, Dr. Lovell-Keays, Black-gorgeted Laughing-Thrushes (Garrulax pectoralis), very handsome birds with pleasing and contrasty plumage, all but succeeded in reproducing their kind last season; 3, B. T. Stewart, rare Tamaulipas, Tawny Thrush, a first appearance, I think, the plumage mostly a chaste arrangement of soft browns.

CLASS 186. OPEN SELLING (3).

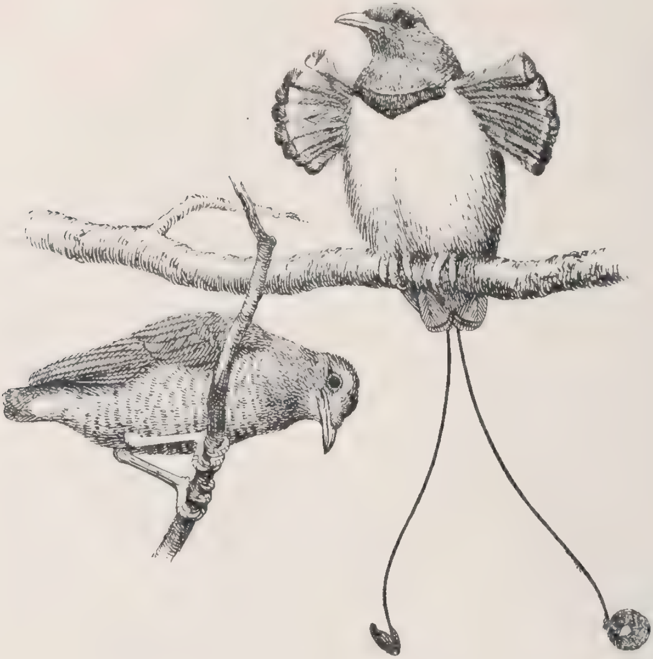
1, J. Reed, R. H. Gouldian Finch; 2, 3, C. T. Maxwell, Malachite Sunbird and Violet Tanager.

CLASS 187. MEMBERS L.C.B.A. ONLY—SEED-EATERS (6)

1, L. M. Wade, Crimson-wing Parrakeet; 2, Miss M. Bousfield, pair Melba Finches; 3, 5, 6, A. Silver, Pectoral and Diamond Finches, and Blue-breasted Waxbill; 4, Mrs. Thynne, Ruficauda Finch.

CLASS 188. MEMBERS L.C.B.A.—SOFTBILLS (7).

1, 2, 5, A. Silver, Wagler's and violaceous Hangnests, both, I think, first appearances; and ♀ Blue Sugarbird; 3, 7, J. Dewhurst, Metallic Starling and pair Coleys; 4, 6, W. A. Shepherd, two Mynahs.



The King Bird of Paradise (*Cicinnurus regius*).

SPECIALS.

F.B.C. SILVER MEDALS for Best Birds in :

Parrot Classes: Miss L. Clare, Queen Alexandra Parrakeets.
Seedeater Classes: Mr. C. H. Row, Fire-tailed Finches.
Insectivorous Classes: Mr. A. Ezra, Ricordi's Humming Bird.

F.B.C. BRONZE MEDALS for Most Points in :

Parrot Classes: Miss A. B. Smyth.
Seedeater Classes: Mr. A. Silver.
Insectivorous Classes: Lady Kathleen Pilkington.

THE LONDON SILVER CUP was won for the third time by Mr. A. Ezra and now becomes his property.

F.B.E.L. DIPLOMAS for First Appearances :

Miss A. B. Smyth (2), Mrs. B. J. Moore, A. Silver (6), J. Frostick (2), C. T. Maxwell (2), R. E. Simpson, A. Ezra (5), C. Harris, W. J C. Frost (2), Mrs. Thynne, W. Shore Baily (2), L. M. Wade.

FIVE SHILLINGS for Best Pairs (Donor: Mr. W. Frost):

A. Silver, Purple-headed Glossy Starlings; Lady K. Pilkington, Black-chinned Yuhinas; Dr. Lovell-Keays, Black-gorgeted Laughing Thrushes.

FOR RARE HYBRIDS—6s. 6d. (Donor: Mr. R. Mannering) :

Miss A. B. Smyth, Red-vented × Red-eared Bulbul.

F.B.E.L. FOR MOST POINTS :

A. Silver (8), Miss A. B. Smyth (3), J. Frostick (3), C. T. Maxwell (4), Dr. Lovell-Keays (2), Miss L. Clare (2), A. J. Shipton (1), F. Howe (3), C. H. Row (1), W. Frost (1), W. Shepherd (1), Miss M. Bousfield (2), Lady K. Pilkington (2).

FOR MOST POINTS given by the following : Misses Alderson, L. Clare, and A. B. Smyth, and Messrs. C. T. Maxwell and R. J. Watts :

A. Silver, A. Ezra, W. Frost, Miss M. Bousfield, F. Howe (2), J Frostick.

We regret space forbids fuller details.—Ed.

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My Tanagers.

By MISS M. BOUSFIELD.

Tanagers are most delightful birds to keep; their plumage is so gorgeous and lustrous, and in most cases they also become very tame.

During the summer they all go into my small outdoor aviaries, three or four pairs in each.

During the winter months they occupy roomy cages (5ft. x 2ft. x 2ft.) in an outdoor shed, in the centre of which stands a small stove, but this is only lighted in very cold weather. Each cage can be divided into two compartments by a central slide of wood or wire. They are fitted with zinc trays, and small branches are placed at each end, so that the birds have a good flight and get plenty of exercise in flying from one to the other. I use sawdust in the trays and keep bowls of sand and grit standing thereon.

The food vessels, china bowls, are inside the cage, and the *menu* consists of : a good insectivorous mixture and plenty of ripe fruit, such as banana, orange, pear, grapes, or anything in season; they also get a few mealworms. Last year they had no milk-sop and seem to keep tighter in feather without it.

I lost my favourite, the White-capped Tanager, last year and have been unable to replace it.

At the present time I only possess the following species:

Necklace (*Chlorophonia viridis*).

Festive (*Calliste festiva*).

Superb (*C. fastuosa*).
Scarlet (*Rhamphocoelus brasilius*).
Maroon (*R. jacapa*).
Violet (*Euphonia violacea*).

I have only kept one other species, viz., the Pectoral Euphonia, and my only losses have been a hen Scarlet, two cock Festives, and a hen Necklace, besides the aforementioned White-cap. I find the Scarlet, Maroon and Superb very difficult to tame, the others soon make themselves at home.

They are all very fond of their bath and get one every day except in very cold weather.

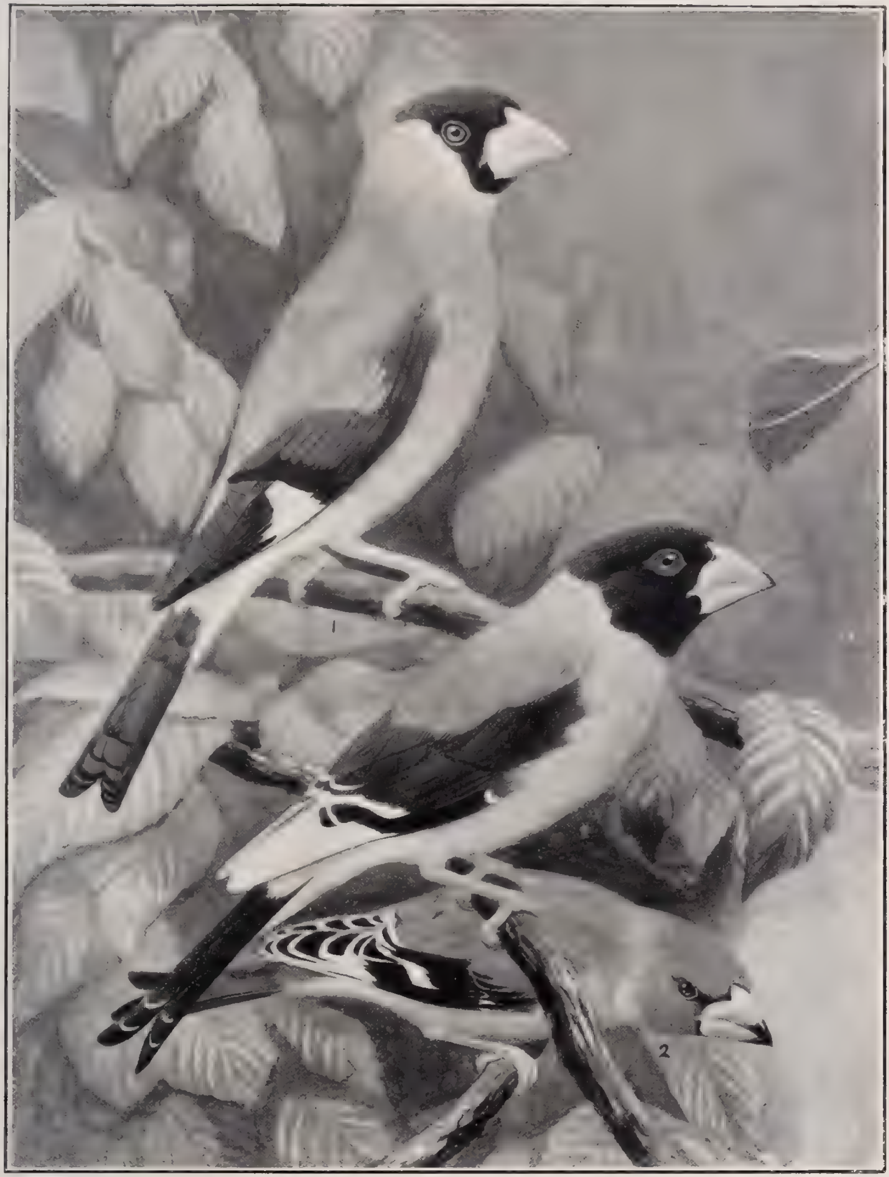
Japanese Hawfinch.

(*Eophona personata*).

BY A. SILVER, F.Z.S.

In this genus (*Eophona*) there are but two species, the Black-tailed Hawfinch (*E. melanura*) and the species under consideration. The term "Black-tailed" is hardly a fitting one for *E. melanura* because in both species the tail is bluish-black. Although *E. melanura* has been frequently called a Japanese Hawfinch, its habitat is southern and central China, and, during the warmer months, its range extends to E. Siberia and Northern China, but only *possibly* to Japan. Whereas the true Japanese Hawfinch (*E. personata*) although found in Eastern Siberia, Northern and Western China, definitely occurs in Japan. The chief differences between the males in the two species are: that whilst the so-called "Black-tailed" species has the whole of the head black, is inclined to chocolate colouring above, and has the primaries pure white some way up from the tips, the Japanese is much larger, has a larger clear yellow bill, much more pointed in curve, is pale drab to ash-grey above, has only the top of the head, base of cheeks, lores, and chin black, and the primaries are bluish-black at the tips. The hen of the Japanese species, I understand, has no black on the head, in which it agrees with its relative.

The "Black-tailed" species was kept by Mr. H. R. Fillmer, of Brighton, as far back as 1893, and, I believe, nested.



1. Japanese Hawfinch (*Eophona personata*) ♂
2. Black-tailed Hawfinch (*E. melanura*) ♂ and ♀

From life by H. Goodchild.

Mr. Peir, of Melbourne; Mr. Frostick, of Balham; Miss A. B. Smyth, of Catford, and others, have exhibited the species on the show bench singly and in pairs; I cannot, however, trace, except upon a single suppositive case, an instance of the other species occurring on the show bench until 1914. Russ had the Japanese species, and both Hagenbeck and Jamrach imported an occasional example; Weiner al o kept it. Messrs. DeVon, of London, had five examples early in 1914, one of which I bought, and caged. After a while it was not quite in good order, so I weaned it from sunflower and afterwards fed it almost entirely on canary seed. From that time it speedily tightened up, and except for a little millet, linseed, and hemp, it has been fed on nothing else except such few grains of sunflower as I might occasionally give it. Now and again it would eat mealworms and greenstuff, but was exceptionally partial to the berries of privet, elder, and mountain ash or rowan. Although kept in a roomy cage it went through a good moult, coming out perfect, and its plumage exhibited a good sheen. Except for a few squeaks it has uttered no note since I have had it, and when not washing (which it likes to do daily) or feeding, it sits bolt upright like a sentry. As a cage bird it is about as interesting as an European Hawfinch, but owing to its much longer tail hardly appears so clumsy. It is to be hoped that at some later date both sexes will be imported, for I feel confident that, under suitable conditions, it would not be difficult to breed. A description of the sexes of both species can be seen in the Museum Catalogue, and except for the colouring of the bill in the male of *E. personata* agrees pretty well. It is therefore quite unnecessary to inflict upon my readers these particulars here, as I have no doubt that Mr. Goodchild will adequately describe with his brush the male of *E. personata*.

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Breeding of Tri-coloured Mannikin x Bengalese Hybrids.

By W. A. Bainbridge.

The season 1913-1914 was started with 3 Bengalese and 1 pair of Tri-colour Mannikins, and I hoped that one or other would breed, and the Bengalese certainly raised my hopes, as very soon a nest was built, eggs laid, and all three began to incubate; it was not to be, however, as this clutch and the next two were clear.

About this time one Bengalese died, another decided that she had sat long enough, but the third might have been glued to the nest, as she would scarcely leave unless touched. Having an odd Diamond Sparrow's egg I put it under her and she hatched it out, but just as the young bird was ready to leave the nest, the Bengalese evidently tired of its work, died, and with it the young Diamond Sparrow.

In the meanwhile, one Tri-coloured Mannikin had died, and the other decided to console himself by falling in love with the Bengalese and very soon a nest was built, in which the Bengalese could generally be found; a few more nests followed, the last of which contained four eggs, on which both birds sat, either together or in turn.

After a period of anxious waiting I investigated, only to find that the eggs were clear, and a second clutch were the same. I then gave up, and once more decided to try and breed from them as separate species, so procured mates for them, and also another pair of Tri-coloured Mannikins.

Fate now sent me a rat, which killed off one Tri-colour, but as luck would have it, it was not the one which had attempted to nest. Soon the Tri-coloured and Bengalese built again, but although I looked many times, I found no eggs, and then ceased to trouble about them.

However, on Wednesday, November 19th, 1913, my man told me that both birds had taken food into the nest, which I examined, and found two naked bodies, obviously just hatched, and horrid looking little things they were.

Mealworms were now supplied more liberally, both parents eating them freely. The young were very slow in feathering, but by December 1st they had begun to feather, on the 10th they looked ready to leave the nest, but did not do so until the 14th, twenty-five days after they were hatched, and on January 2nd, 1914, or 19 days after leaving the nest, they fed themselves for the first time.

The season 1914 saw several more nests, eggs, and young, and now (September) there are about 10 young flying about; in each case they have been slow to feather and a long time in the nest.

The young were exactly like young Bronze-wings, only much larger, and did not assume adult plumage till the beginning of the summer. This year's young, however, started to assume adult plumage within a month of leaving the nest.

In appearance they are distinctly pleasing to the eye, although not bright in colour, and look rather like Spice Finches (of which I have none). The illustration of Hybrid Spice-finch × Bengalese in Mr. Page's book is the nearest thing to them imaginable*.

They have very dark to almost black heads, light-coloured breasts deeply mottled like the Spice bird, with the beak of the Tri-coloured Mannikin.

The young were fed on the usual seed, Indian, white and spray millet, canary seed and mealworms, the first and last being the favourites.

*This comparison may be true of a black and white illustration but it is not true of them as to colour, for the brown areas in Mr. Bainbridge's hybrids are strongly suffused with cinnamon in parts and are darker about the head than the Spice × Bengalese hybrids, though we agree with Mr. Bainbridge, that as to form, distribution of dark and light areas, and the scaling of the underparts, the two hybrids are similar, but there the similarity ends, the hues of the browns being quite different, having seen both hybrids we are able to make the distinction.—Ed.

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Editorial.

THE PROSPECT: This we can say but little about in such critical times; we can but hint hopes and desires. It will be apparent to all that the year will be an onerous one for the club's officials, yet the outlook is faced in the full assurance that they will have the utmost support one and all can give; if so, even though our scope and extent may be restricted, we shall be able to write SUCCESS as the result.

We propose to go forward much on past lines, but invite suggestions as to new features and methods that may best realise our aims, viz.: mutual help and the gathering together of reliable data concerning the species kept in captivity.

In such times, with so many serving the colours, we cannot expect as a society to escape without loss. Already we regret to note that the Hon. Vere D. Boscawen has been killed in action; the husband of Lady Edith Douglas Pennant has been wounded and is a prisoner; Sir R. J. Corbett, Bart., has also been wounded, and many are serving with the colours. We should be glad if members would help us to compile a complete list and of casualties, so as to enable "Bird Notes" to have its "Roll of Honour."

Even in times like these, for the need is the greater, we urge upon all to make our Society and its Magazine known to those interested in bird-life, and to use every effort to increase our membership.

The following are a few methods which suggest themselves to us, whereby you may help the Club and increase its usefulness at a distressful time:

By the prompt payment of your subscriptions, which became due on the 1st inst., and thus save your Secretary the trouble and expense of postal applications.

By personal effort to secure new Members.

By liberally supporting the Illustration and Deficit Funds.

By contributing Articles, Notes (illustrated if possible), concerning Aviaries, with Details as to how the birds are fed and treated generally.

By bearing, whenever possible, the cost of the blocks for illustrating the articles.

By the careful collection of Data relating to the birds you keep, and the systematic publication of same in "Bird Notes."

By supporting with your presence any public functions the Club may hold.

These are a few ways in which all may assist in the Club's propaganda, and have a personal share in the progress of aviculture.

The present issue must not be taken as a precedent of those to follow, because the Show Report and a process of *levelling up* have compelled the issue of a bulkier number than the times warrant. The extent to which any curtailment may be necessary, must depend entirely on the help given by members as indicated above.

Correspondence.

SEASONAL CHANGES OF PLUMAGE OF THE PURPLE SUNBIRD, *Arachnechthra asiatica* (*Lath*).

Sir.—In Vol. I., p. 344 of "The Fauna of British India,—Birds," we find the following statement: "It has frequently been asserted that "the males of many species of Indian Sunbirds have a distinct summer "and winter plumage. After examining the very large series of Sunbirds "in the British Museum, I am convinced that this is never the case. "Full plumaged males of all the common species, and it is of these that "the assertion has been made, shot in every month of the year, or at "such frequent intervals as to practically amount to the same thing, are "in the national collection, and prove that the adult males never change "their colours. Young males are to be found throughout their first "year in immature plumage, and these have probably given rise to the "belief that a seasonal change takes place in the adult." In spite of the above statement I cannot help suspecting that some males at any rate do have a winter partial eclipse. Now that several of our members have been so successful in keeping the Sunbirds, perhaps they would kindly give us their experience in this matter.

Hissar, Dec. 1913. HUGH WHISTLER.

[Since receiving the above we have written to several members, who have kept or keep Sunbirds (including Mr. A. Ezra, who kindly sent a full annotated list of his species) and the following list is the result: in every case, except the Nepalese, we have had access to records from several sources.—Ed.].

SPECIES IN WHICH THE MALES HAVE A DISTINCTIVE SUMMER AND WINTER PLUMAGE :

Purple (*Arachnechthra asiatica*).—India.
Greater Double-collared (*Cinnyris afer*).—S. Africa.
Lesser Double-collared (*C. chalybeus*).—S. Africa.
Southern Malachite (*Nectarinia famosa*).—S. Africa.

SPECIES IN WHICH THE MALES RETAIN THEIR FULL COLOURATION ALL THE YEAR ROUND, or have it modified to no greater extent than that of the English Chaffinch :

Amethyst-rumped (*Arachnechthra zeylonica*).—India.
Black-breasted Yellow-backed (*Ae. saturata*).—Himalayas.
Nepal Yellow-backed (*Aethopyga nipalensis*).—Nepal.
*Red Yellow-backed (*Ae. scheriae*).—Himalayas.
‡Greater Amethyst (*Cinnyris amethystinus*).—S. Africa.

‡This species, Mr. Ezra remarks, does not go "out of colour," but when in moult the velvet black becomes dull, which soon regains its lustre as the bird goes through the moult.

*This species does not go into eclipse plumage, but Mr. Ezra and others have found the blood-red hue fugitive in captivity, becoming dull orange; even to this there are exceptions, as he knows of two specimens which have moulted back into a lovely red.

*Mr. C. T. Maxwell exhibited a fine, cage-moulted male of this species, which was practically full natural colour.

RESULTS, 1914.

Sir,—Results in my aviary this year have been very small, viz.: 2 Zebra Finches and 2 Gouldian Finches reared.

The latter were hatched very late—the end of September—in a box in the shelter, and, as far as I could see were fed entirely on seed.

If any of our local members would care to see the young Goulds in their immature green plumage I should be very happy to arrange for them on hearing to that effect.

Edinburgh, J. CURRIE.
24/12/'14.

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Birds of the Jhelum District and an Ornithological Diary from the Punjab.

By H. Whistler, I.P., M.B.O.U.

September 1.—When driving round the grass farm I saw a large Eagle, apparently *Aquila vindhiana make a* short but fine stoop on to a thorn bush, where she remained balancing with outstretched wings and tail while she pulled at something. I went up to see what it was, and she rose with empty talons to settle on a neighbouring bush. The only quarry that I could find in the bush, was a nest containing a half-feathered young Babbler. Apparently the Eagle had been eating its brothers and sisters!

Another interesting episode was the finding of a nest of the White-throated Munia (*Uroloncha malabarica*) or "Silverbill"— a large ball of flowering grasses, shaped roughly like a Rugby football with the entrance at one end. On the few budded heads of some herb which served as lining were lying 22 eggs—the produce of several hens, doubtless. These little birds apparently often adopt such social-like principles, and it is a common event to find six or seven roosting or sitting in an old nest.

Visited Rajpura jheel where numbers of Nightjars were found in a patch of dry grass jungle near the water. They were all moulting birds probably on migration, as I have seen none there before. I have not yet succeeded in identifying the exact species of the three birds which I shot and skinned, but they appear to be Franklin's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus monticola*). Some pairs of the Pheasant-tailed Jacana and an immature Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) are still at the jheel. Two eggs in a nest of the Ring Dove (*Turtur risorius*), and young in a nest of *Franklinia bu-*

chanani. A Dusky Crag Martin (*Ptyanoprogne concolor*) seen to visit a saucer shaped mud nest on the outside of a house, but the numbers of this species which were frequenting the Cattle Farm Bungalow in May and June have disappeared. Two Grey Hornbills (*Lophoceros birostris*) seen—the first in Hissar.

September 2.—In the early morning while I was exercising a tame (as distinct to trained) Lugger Falcon (*Falco jugger*) to the lure, an old wild Tiercel came and joined in the sport, followed later by two younger birds, both apparently Falcons. The same thing happened yesterday but then only the old Tiercel came. These were the same birds that were noticed about at the end of last month. In the evening I saw a wild Falcon make a terrific stoop at a Green Parroquet which just managed to dodge it. This may have been one of the above Luggers, but from the momentary glimpse afforded me it appeared a little redder in colour.

A White Ibis (*Ibis melanoleucus*) seen ; also a Nightjar near my house. One Green Sandpiper noted.

September 3.—A Magpie-Robin (*Copysychus saularis*) noted– a distinctly scarce species in Hissar.

Four or five Green Sandpipers noticed in different places.

September 4.—A small flight of Striated Swallows were noted by the bungalow in the morning—forerunners of the numbers which were about by the end of the month. I also noted two Indian Whitethroats (*Sylvia affinis*), a species that became common during the month.

Two eggs in a nest of the Common Babbler (*Argya caudata*)—a structure of grass and bents placed in a thorny Wild Caper bush some three feet from the ground.

September 6.—Young found in a nest of the Large Grey Babbler (*Argya malcomi*) placed 20 feet from the ground over a road, on a side bough of a Kikur tree.

A male and female Lesser Floriken (*Syphcotis auritus*) reported to me as seen on the grass farm.

September 7.—A pair of Small Minivets (*Pericrocotus peregrinus*) were feeding in a tree in front of my bungalow.

September 8.—Five eggs taken from a nest of the Rufous-fronted Wren-Warbler (*Franklinia buchanani*) which was found half built on the 31st August. The nest was of the usual type, built of fine flowering grasses mixed with a few shreds of a cotton-like substance, some pieces of the last being placed below the eggs. The structure was placed about six inches from the ground in a thorn bush.

As I was walking along the main road a small dark Crake, perhaps *Porzana pusilla,* flew across in front of me and disappeared into a ditch.

A King Vulture (*Otogyps calvus*) seen.

September 10.—A Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) seen hawking over some flood-water near the City. A freshly shot adult female Red-headed Merlin sent in to me.

One or two Crag Martins (*Ptyanoprogne concolor*) noted flying in company with some Striated Swallows.

The Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters (*Merops persicus*) are still about. A Rufous-backed Shrike seen.

September 11.—Four eggs found in a nest of the Common Babbler (*Argya caudata*). The nest was a slight but deep cup of bents and grass, lined with fine roots and placed some three feet from the ground in the fork of a Kikur bush; it was but little concealed.

A Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) noted.

The first European Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Siphia parva*) of the autumn migration noted.

A young Wandering Tree-Pie (*Dendrocitta rufa*) came into the verandah and foolishly allowed itself to be caught, although it could fly well enough; it kept on flying about the roof of the verandah along the cornices and apparently lacked the intelligence to fly out into the open; hence I caught it. As it was rather too old to tame satisfactorily I alallowed it to go again.

September 13.—Starting in the early morning I drove some eight or nine miles over the cattle farm. The part traversed was a wide plain, covered with a fine crop of standing hay studded with bushes and occasional patches of thicker herbage marking depressions in the ground where rain water stands. Needless to say this ground is a paradise for birds, as well as for Antelope, of which many herds were seen. Many migrants were noticed, including several Harriers in both brown and grey plumage, various kinds of Pipits, Larks, Wagtails, Chats, Wheatears, and Warblers. A noticeable feature was the number of immature Rollers (*Coracias indica*) seen either mounting in the air or perched on bushes.

In the evening I visited the jheel, where the Crane's nest was found on the 16th August. The nest was empty, with a few pieces of broken shell lying near by, and as one of the Cranes rose out of the heavy vegetation it is probable that the young were somewhere near.

Several Franklin's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus monticola*) were still haunting the ground where I found them on September 1st. Various pairs of Avadavats (*Sporaeginthus amandava*) appear to be nesting in the tufts of grass in the water, but I could find no nests. Several Waterhens (*Gallinula chloropus*) noted, as well as a small Rail which appeared to be Eastern Baillon's Crake (*Porzana pusilla*). The most noticeable feature of the jheel was the number of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters (*Merops persicus*) collected to roost in the bushes.

September 14.—Four eggs in a nest of the Large Grey Babbler (*Argya malcolmi*) built some 25ft. from the ground at the top of a kikur tree by the road-side. In spite of the eggs being fresh the bird sat very close. The nest was of the usual type, a broad platform of sticks with the cup lined with horse hairs and a few bits of withered grass.

A tiercel Red-headed Merlin (*Aesalon chicquera*) seen, also a Crested Honey Buzzard (*Pernis cristatus*).

September 15.—Saw the first Indian Redstart (*Ruticilla rufiventris*) of the autumn migration.

September 16.—A male Koel (*Eudynamis honorata*) seen; an occasional one was heard on various days in the month, but the majority have probably left; some remained however, into October.

Two small Waders seen appeared to be Stints (*Tringa* sp. ?); a Red-headed Merlin in my compound.

September 17.—Four White Ibis (*Ibis melanocephala*) passed over my house in the early morning.

September 18.—Saw a fine Wryneck (*Iynx torquilla*)—the first actually seen on the autumn migration though I heard one calling I believe, a week ago.

September 19.—The Red-headed Buntings (*Emberiza luteola*) have suddenly become very numerous again, and I saw great numbers of them.

Small Warblers of several genera *e.g.* the Indian Whitethroat (*Sylvia affinis*), Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*), *Hypolais rama,* and a few Willow Wrens (*Phylloscopus*) are now abundant on migration, and their chipping notes may be heard on all sides.

A few Harriers noted but I failed to identify the exact species.

A Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caerulus*) was noted hovering at a great height in the manner for which the Kestrel is noted; both in the actual performance and in the length of the periods for which it hovered, and in a fine stoop which it made, I could see no difference from a Kestrel's performance.

Several Avadavats (*Sporaeginthus amandava*) noted; also a King Vulture (*Otogyps calvus*).

September 20.—On a small pond we unexpectedly came on a party of nine Teal (*Nettium crecca*) and managed to secure a couple —the first Ducks of the season.

Many Hoopoes about the Bir, clearly an increase of migrating birds. The Rollers (*Coracias indica*), also appear to have had their numbers increased by immigration, probably of those birds which leave the Northern Punjab about this time.

A few Masked Wagtails (*Motacilla personata*) noted, also several Green Sandpipers.

September 21.—A large number of Tree-Pipits (*Anthus trivialis*) noted about—these are of course on migration.

A male Indian Stonechat (*Pratincola maura*) seen; also a Bluethroat—the first of the autumn migration. Two eggs in a nest of the Red Turtle Dove (*Œnopopelia tranquebarica*), and one in a nest of the Indian Ring Dove (*Turtur risorius*). A party of newly-fledged young Red-vented Bulbuls (*Molpastes haemorrhous*) observed.

September 22.—A large Raptorial bird seen near my house appeared to be a Crested Honey Buzzard (*Pernis cristatus*).

September 23.—Whilst flying my Lugger Falcon in the morning I saw it mobbed by an immature female Shikra (*Astur badius*) —a most unusually large specimen.

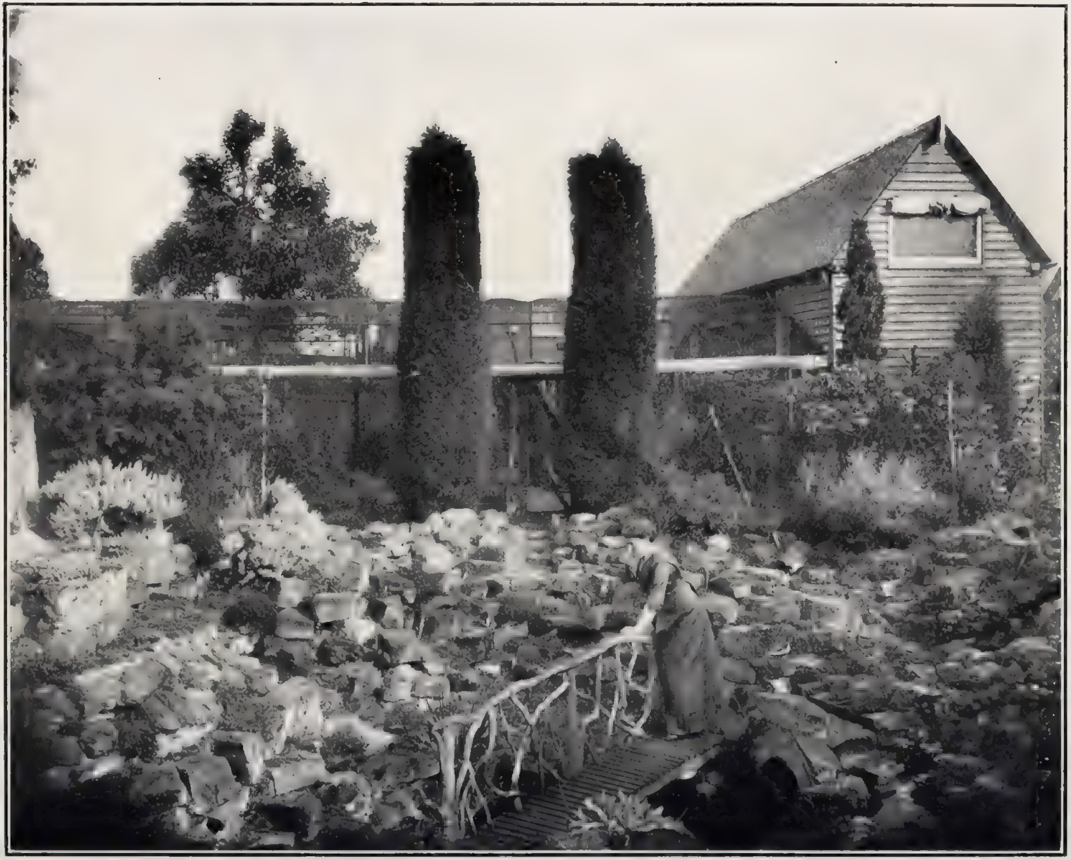
Attracted by the unusual whiteness of the nape of an Eagle sitting on a tree, I shot it to find that it was merely an example of that extremely common and variable species the Tawny Eagle (*Aquila vindhiana*). In its gizzard and crop were the remains of a large Goa Lizard.

September 24.—Noted a Paradise Flycatcher (*Tchitrea paradisi*), a male which appeared to be assuming the third winter plumage. This is the first of the species which I have noted in the district, although I thought I heard its call on two previous occasions.

A Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus candidus*) was feeding in a small pond where I was told it was first seen on the 17th.

A Bluethroat noted; also several Dusky Crag Martins (*Ptyanoprogne concolor*) and a party of Wire-tailed Swallows (*Hirundo smithii*).

(*To be continued*).



Mr. Scott Freeland's Aviaries—From the Rock Garden.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

An Enthusiast's Aviaries.

By G. Scott Freeland.

It is now some time since our respected Editor asked me and in a weak moment I promised to write a few particulars of my aviaries for the information of my fellow members of F.B.C.

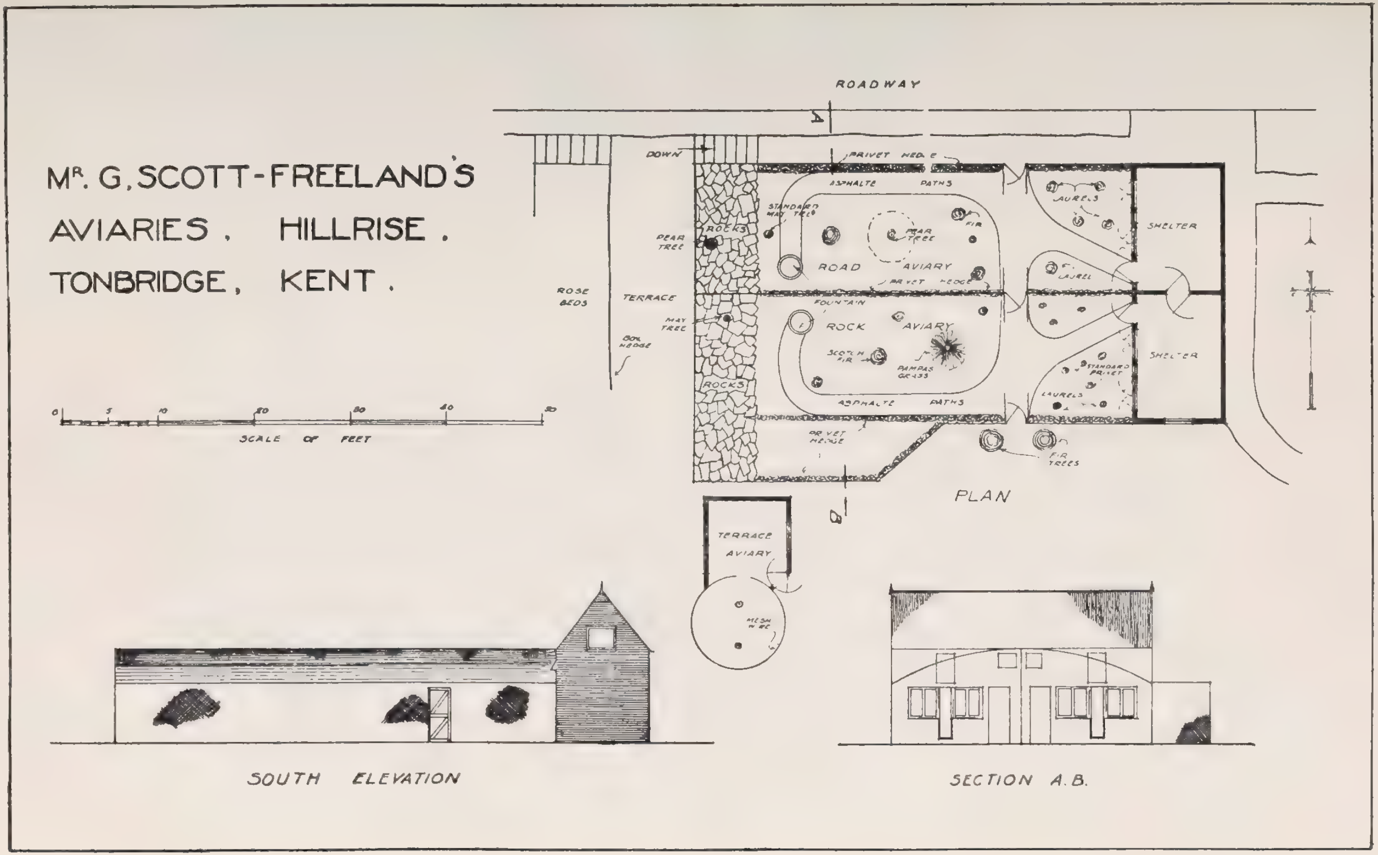
The ground plan speaks for itself as regards dimensions.

The Shelter. The walls of this are built as follow, commencing from the inside: half-inch wire netting, 5—6 inches of straw, next a covering of felt, and outside weather-boarding. The roof is the same with the addition of a second layer of felt and finished with corrugated iron. The whole of the inside walls and roof have a thin coat of hair plaster and are well lime washed. The walls are covered with natural perching in the form of pea boughs. The windows are double. The flooring is concrete. The doors are lined with straw and the whole of the wood—exposed and covered—is creosoted, the building outside being painted brick red.

The Flight. This is 10 feet high in the centre and 6 feet at the sides. The frame is of 2-inch T iron, and the wire netting—also that in the shelter—is carried down into the ground 2 feet. This has made the erection absolutely rat proof, and moreover it is also quite mouse proof, as the smallest Field Mouse cannot get through the small mesh wire netting. This advantage, in my opinion, is well worth the extra cost. Before I leave this point, to show that the enclosures are mouse- as well as rat-proof, I may add they have been in use nearly two years, and to-day there is no sign of vermin of any description.

Last winter (1913-14) the birds in the Rock Aviary were shut up and during the week or two of very severe frost the temperature only once—and this when the ther-

Mr. G. SCOTT-FREELAND'S AVIARIES. HILLRISE. TONBRIDGE, KENT.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SCALE OF FEET
SOUTH ELEVATION
SECTION A.B.

Mr. Scott Freeland's Aviaries.—From the Terrace.

mometer in the flight registered 16 degrees of frost -fell to 30 degrees (2 degrees of frost). During this cold spell I did not lose a single bird, which certainly goes far to prove that provided the shelter is draught proof, many delicate species may be successfully kept in large Garden Aviaries where they can be merely driven into the shelter during the winter months. In the Road Aviary the birds use the flight and shelter at their option. When the cold weather sets in, the windows are closed up and the door only allowed to be open day and night, and through the coldest day all the birds appear to be in the pink of condition.

During the two seasons I have now gone through, I at once confess the breeding results of the rarer species have not overwhelmed me with stock. Of the rarer specimens I have at the moment Violet-eared Waxbills incubating, the fourth attempt, and three times the young lived to be from three to eight days old. The Silver-eared Mesias and Indian White-eyes have carried out building operations all the summer, but have never properly settled down to house-keeping.

I find the Blue-cheeked Barbet roosts, or more properly reclines, in a coco-nut husk in the open; how he gets in and turns completely round—as he must do, because in his bedroom he has full view of any enemy that might approac him—I do not know; he certainly looks most comical and of course fills the husk out.

I am so enchanted with the Sunbirds I have been fortunate enough to see through the kindness of our well-known member and successful exhibitor, Mr. Ezra, that I have determined to introduce a few as opportunity offers and pocket affords—I fear the latter is the ruling factor.

At the moment I have Malachite, Red Himalayan and Lesser Double-collared, and they are a glorious sight. Although November has arrived with all its disadvantages of dreary days and long nights, this class of bird—Sunbirds, Blue Sugar-birds, Yellow-winged Sugar-birds, White-eyes, Green-fronted Bulbuls, etc.—is in show condition. Up to the present they have full access to the flight and take full advantage of it although I find they roost in the shelter.—(Written November 1st, 1914.—Ed.).

The Nesting of the Lesser Grey-headed Guan.

(*Ortalis vetula*).

BY R. SUGGITT.

The Guans are very closely related to the Game Birds, and belong to the family *Cracidae* (Curassows) of that order. The family is confined to the warmer parts of America, only one of the numerous species ranging as far north as Southern Texas. They are tree-loving birds, and are seldom found far from the vicinity of woods. They feed both amongst the branches, and on the ground, their food consisting of fruit, leaves and insects.

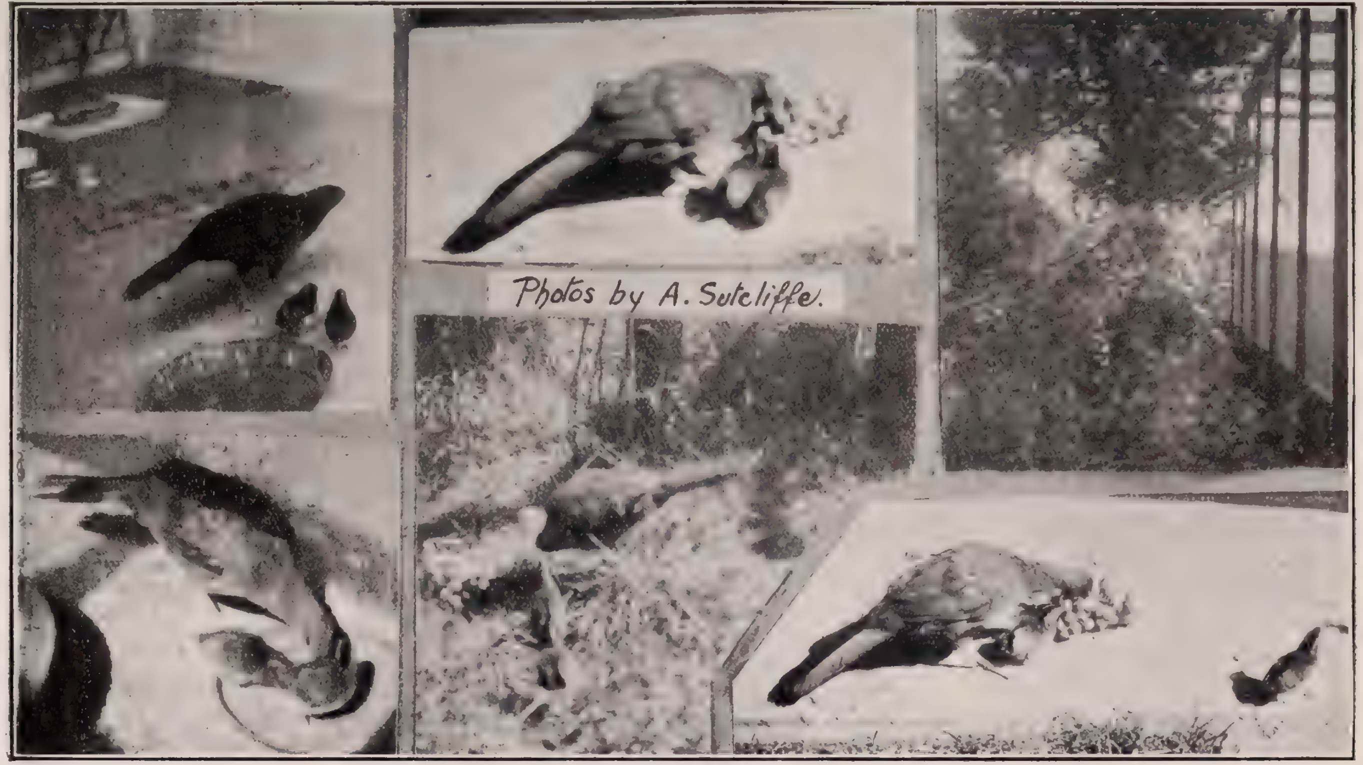
The Lesser Grey-headed Guan has the most northerly range of any of the seventeen species of *Ortalis*, being found from the United States of Colombia to Southern Texas, where it is known by the name of "Chacalacca."

This species is about the size of a hen Pheasant and is of very sober plumage. The head and neck are dark grey; upper surface and chest, olive-brown; remainder of under surface buff; tail-feathers above dark green, each feather with a broad tip of buff. The throat is red and naked, divided down the centre by a thin band of feathers. The body is very thin and small; total length, about 20 inches; tail 9½ inches. The sexes are alike in plumage, but the male may be distinguished from the female by his slightly redder throat, and his stouter beak.

Their nests are usually found in cavities, formed by the junction of the limb of a tree with the trunk, where twigs and leaves have fallen. It is very probable that the birds do not collect their own material, but use these accumulations to form their nests, in which three or four white, rough-shelled eggs are laid.

It is said that a few of these birds are domesticated every year in Mexico and Texas, where they become very tame and inconveniently familiar, but Professor Newton, speaking of the Guans, says "All attempts to domesticate them in "the full sense of the word have wholly failed, and the cases in "which they have been induced to breed, and the young have "been reared in confinement are very few."

In captivity these birds require some warmth during



Photos by A. Sutcliffe.

Lesser Grey-headed Guan and chicks (4 days old). Site of nest at X, top right corner.

the winter, as they are not hardy, and their feet are specially liable to injury through frost. They are rather objectionable in close confinement, as, owing to the nature of their food, they make a large amount of dirt, and soon become offensive if their quarters are not kept scrupulously clean.

They should be fed on all kinds of ripe fruit, scalded grocer's currants, figs, dates, etc., cut into small pieces; lettuce, tender leaves, and other green food. They will eat a little insectile food, and, like most birds, are very fond of mealworms. A little seed is eaten, but this passes through them undigested, as also do gentles. A good supply of grit is essential to their health.

I received my pair in September 1913, and I was rather fortunate to get them landed safely. They were procured in Southern Mexico, and brought over by a vessel bound for Hamburg. From there they were re-shipped in a small box, over which canvas had been tightly nailed, so that they had neither light, food, nor water, during their journey, which would occupy at least 48 hours, and it speaks well for their powers of endurance that on arrival they appeared strong and healthy, and were simply ravenous for food.

Unlike most Game Birds, the sexes show great affection for each other, and spend a great deal of their time in preening each other's feathers and "spooning." I think my birds have been hand-reared, as they are utterly fearless of human beings. They will leap on to the shoulders of anyone who enters their enclosure, and insist on remaining there, until they are removed by force, against which they loudly protest.

I turned them into the largest compartment of my aviary early in April. They at once quietly explored the enclosure and immediately made themselves at home.

It was only about a fortnight afterwards that I saw the male sitting in a small wire flower-pot hanger, which had been fixed at the top of a tree, as an inducement for a pair of Waxwings to nest. This his body completely filled, and he looked most uncomfortable with his tail forced upwards at right angles to his body. He tried desperately to draw the surrounding twigs under him, but of course, without success. I replaced the hanger with a small round basket, half filled with hay, with which he appeared to be delighted; he called up the hen to inspect it, and both birds chuckled with satisfaction. The cock spent most of his time during the next fortnight leisurely arranging the materials, but the hen did not appear to be very interested, and only inspected his work occasionally.

I never saw any courting display except that both birds frequently raised their tails, spread fan-wise into a perpendicular position. They were not particularly aggressive at this time, but would not tolerate any other large bird in the vicinity of their nest, and were rather vindictive towards a pair of Californian Quail.

On the afternoon of May 3rd I saw the hen deposit her first egg in the nest at 5 o'clock, the second one was laid on the 5th, and on the 7th she commenced to incubate after laying the third.

She sat very patiently, only coming off the nest for food, and returning immediately. The cock never took a turn at incubation; he usually sat dozing on a branch near the nest. He never fed her while she was sitting, but he would often call her off the nest, to give her some tit-bit that he had discovered.

I began to be impatient after the hen had incubated for 29 days, and fearing something was wrong, I tested the eggs, and found all three to be addled; probably owing to one or two rather sharp frosts, which occurred soon after incubation commenced. I tried to blow the eggs, but the shells were so extremely thick and hard, that the drill would not penetrate, without being given a hard tap. I broke two of them and was only fairly successful with the third. The white shells are very absorbent and quickly become stained.

Nothing further happened until July 8th, when I saw them pair, and later that day the cock was busily repairing the nest. The first egg was laid on the 12th, and the hen again commenced to incubate three eggs on the 16th.

All three eggs hatched on the morning of August 11th, making the incubation period 26 days. I did not see the young ones descend from the nest, but judging from the great development of the flight feathers, their wings would be of great assistance to them in reaching the ground.

The chicks are very large and active birds when first hatched, and appear to be much larger than the eggs, which probably accounts for the extreme hardness and thickness of the shells. They are thickly clothed with down, a mixture of black, chestnut, and grey; a band above the base of the beak, black; a broad irregular stripe of pale grey passes over each eye to the nape, and joins on forehead over black frontal band; crown, with two black stripes, joining in front and enclosing a chestnut patch in the centre; upper surface ruddy chestnut slightly mottled with black, and with two indistinct grey stripes on the back; sides of face, chin and throat, grey, mottled with black; upper part of chest and fore-neck chestnut; remainder of underparts pure white; wings brownish black, barred with chestnut; beak, flesh colour at base, remainder black with pure white tip; feet, pink. The throat is not naked as in the adult.

For some reason the cock became greatly excited soon after the young ones hatched, and threw two of them into the air. I removed him to another compartment. I don't suppose he really intended to injure them, as he was afterwards calling to them with food in his beak and looking quite miserable, but one of the young ones was found dead the next morning, and I attribute its death to his rough treatment.

It fortunately happened about the time the young hatched, that the nights were exceptionally warm and fine, or through an oversight I might have lost them all. I had imagined that the hen would brood the chicks on the ground at night, but at dusk in the evening of the day they were hatched I heard her calling to them from some branches fixed high in the shelter. No doubt the chicks had tried to reach her, but as there were no lower branches to enable them to ascend so high, they had perched, and were asleep, each in a separate bush, in the open flight. I afterwards arranged convenient branches, as steps to the top of the shelter, and the next night the young ones slept close to the body of the hen.

All the food was taken from the beak of the hen, and consisted of finely chopped fruit, boiled rice, lettuce, houseflies, mealworms, blow-fly pupae, and insectile food; the live-food was given to the young direct, but the fruit and green food was swallowed and afterwards regurgitated.

From the first the young ones were very active among the branches, and spent a lot of their time climbing about in the low bushes. At the end of the first week they had not made much progress, but their wings had grown considerably, and their tails were quite half an inch long. At a fortnight old, feathers had commenced to appear on the mantle, and pen feathers were visible on the sides of their breasts. They now commenced to pick up a little food for themselves, but were principally fed by the hen.

On September 1st, at three weeks old, they could fly about freely, their backs and breasts were fully feathered and their tails were quite three inches long. At the end of the fourth week two narrow naked stripes began to appear on their throats, and their crowns had commenced to feather, but it was not until the end of the seventh week that all traces of the immature plumage had disappeared. They were still fed and brooded by the hen occasionally, but were practically independent of her.

It was quite three months before the young birds attained the full size of their parents. They are now thriving splendidly, but are inclined to be rather wild, and will probably never be as tame as their parents.

◆

The Gold-fronted Green (Bulbul) Fruitsucker.

(*Chloropsis aurifrons*).

By B. Theo. Stewart.

One bleak November day I received the following note:

"I am sending you a Green Flycatcher, but as the weather is so unfavourable I rely on your meeting it personally—shall put it in charge of Guard."

Now commands or wishes are abhorrent to my soul, to say nothing of the fact that I had other engagements, but what could an artistic bird-lover like myself do but obey?

And in such wise did I become possessed of the bird that my soul still loveth.

Out from his little travelling box he fluttered—from the nest of cotton wool that wrapped him round—straight on to my finger, straight into my heart. Just a ball of soft feathers he lay in my hand; warm, delicious to the touch.

Hue of emerald; crown of gold, and when he spread his pretty wings I caught a glimpse of turquoise-blue—blue as a woman's eyes should be!

And I murmured as I gazed upon him: "The Green—the Gold-headed the Beautiful." Back into his cage I put him, and he carried my hopes with him.

Such a bird, I pondered, should be fed on the food that the gods love, and pearls dissolved in wine should be his drink

Ah! well, I evolved a more prosaic diet for his daily needs, in which fruits not so rare as those of my imagination figured, and honey and milk to give him strength and sweetness.

On the second day he sang—and every day after—and by and by he mingled with his song all the notes of the Shama; of the Blue Bird of happy memory. The dulcet tones of the nightingale; and the wailing of the Never-never bird—and the dear delightful strain was for my ear alone.

He sang of love, of happiness, of the glories that had been, of the grey present shot with silver—of the future bright and glowing as the golden crown he bore of hope that trailed its pinions in the dust, of majesty never humbled, of pride never cast down, and of ambitions that fretted their wings ere they soared to fulfilment.

And being but a bird he fell from the sublime to the ridiculous and sang again of pippins and cheese to come!

The Bulbul slept soundly—I envied him! Slept as only the lovely and innocent of heart can sleep. Every morning I roused him, and he never failed to greet me as lightly as only lovers can! Oh, he was a vision of delight, this bonny gem! Day by day he grew more beautiful and the golden crown upon his head waxed more and more brilliant, and yet I never heeded!

Day by day he sang, louder, sweeter, and more tenderly!

And yet I did not know!

The shadow of death's hand was hovering over him; one fatal morning it closed upon him. He was singing lustily. Just as I turned away he stopped on one high note the rest was silence. He had passed from me without a flutter, without a pang. As I held the little body, still warm, in my hand, I noticed that he had drawn his wings forward as if to guard the heart that love had broken!

Surely this little silent lovely act was his last offering on the Altar of Friendship.

Alas for me—

"Earth has lost a portion of her glory:
And like Baldür in the ancient story
Never comes the beautiful again . . .

Still, in my dreams there flits the radiant form of him I have called "The Green Gold-headed Beautiful," and on my expectant ear there falls the dear familiar tune and I start to answer it.

◆

My Tanagers—Past and Present.

By Lady Kathleen Pilkington.

Our good friend and Editor having honoured me with a request for an account of the Tanagers I have owned, I comply with all the more readiness, in that my narrative has been preceded by one from so keen and enthusiastic a fancier as Miss Bousfield, whose excellent article I have just read with much interest and which has inspired me with a wish to do likewise.

Perhaps the simplest way to begin is to give a list of all I have ever had, ending with those now in my possession. It is as follows :—

Blue and Black Tanagers (*Tanagrella cyanomelaena*).
Tricolour Tanagers (*Calliste tricolor*).
Pretre's Tanagers (*Spindalis pretrei*).
Superb Tanagers (*Calliste fastuosa*).
Black-backed Tanagers (*C. melanonota*).
Archbishop Tanagers (*Tanagra ornata*).
Black Tanagers (*Tachyphonus melaleucus*).
Palm Tanagers (*Tanagra palmarum*).
Violet Euphonia (*Euphonia violacea*).
Pectoral Euphonia (*E. pectoralis*).
All Green Chloro-Tanager (*Chlorophonia viridis*).
Festive Tanager (*Calliste festiva*).
Scarlet Tanager (*Rhamphocoelus brasilius*).
Blue Tanager (*Tanagra episcopus*).
Black-cheeked Tanager (*Calliste cayana*).
Gold and Green Tanager (*C. flava*).
Blue-headed Euphonia (*Euphonia nigricollis*).

The last seven, I am glad to say, are all alive and flourishing. Of the first ten on my list pride of place undoubtedly goes to the Blue and Black, a lovely and most rare Tanager, in fact

I believe him to have been almost—if not the only one—which has ever figured on the show bench. He became mine at the L.C.B.A. Show, 1910, where he won first and attracted much attention as his colouring was wonderful (see plate "B.N." Vol. III., N.S., page 1), but he was not an interesting bird in himself, and though he lived till last year never became particularly tame or friendly.

Of my present collection the Blue-headed Euphonia and the Black-cheeked certainly stand out both for rarity and beauty of plumage. They took first and second in the order named at the last L.C.B.A. Show. It is difficult to make up one's mind whether one prefers the vivid colouring of the little Euphonia, with his jaunty Eton-blue cap and brown breast, or the delicately-shaded opal tints of the Black-cheeked, which, though far less brilliant, has a refinement of colouring, which is wonderfully attractive, and grows upon one the more one sees the bird in different lights. I have two Black-cheeked and cannot at present determine whether they are a cock and hen, or two cocks, one less mature than the other. They are marked exactly alike—only one is a paler understudy of the other. After living amicably together for over a year they have lately taken to quarelling so violently that I have had to separate them—and now incline to the belief that they are two cocks. They arrived in London last July in a large cage with a mass of other birds of all sorts and sizes, from Finches to Cowbirds, in a state of wretchedness, and semi-starvation impossible to describe, and literally at their last gasp. They were, in fact, little draggled bundles of broken feathers, too weak to resent being lifted out in my hand, and I gave them a very short time to live. But they revived marvellously on being given food and have never looked back since, and from this speedy recovery and the rapidity with which they got into good plumage, I put them down as one of the hardiest of the many species of Tanagers, the more so as many of the other birds which arrived with them succumbed to the after effects of their terrible journey.

The Blue-Headed Euphonia is a most merry little person, remarkably tame and friendly, and quite the most attractive in character as well as appearance of all the Tanagers I have owned. He is a victim to extreme greed—

the ill effects of which are only obviated, to my mind, by the frantic exercise he takes in ceaselessly singing a discordant little song, which he does with mad energy, and a great risk of cracking his small throat. I have always to be careful not to put his food tin near that of any bird alongside him, or he immediately starts a kind of frenzied "eating-match" against his neighbour, which cannot be good for the digestion!

My Scarlet Tanager I have had since 1909, but despite all these years he still remains extremely wild—which bears out a remark of Miss Bousfield's—and cannot be induced to take any friendly interest in us, nor has he ever condescended to take mealworms, of which he is extremely fond, from my hand. Undoubtedly the most difficult to keep in good condition and plumage, or indeed to keep at all, for any length of time, is the Festive. I have owned two—one a very fine specimen with specially good colouring, which I managed to keep for two years, but he died suddenly in 1913, after taking 2nd at the L.C.B.A. Show in 1912. I purchased another in 1913, but cannot get him into show form, and he has not come at all satisfactorily through his last moult. The All-Green or Necklace, also seem delicate, but these are the only two varieties, out of the seventeen I have had, which have been at all really difficult to manage. Perhaps I ought to add the Pretre's Tanager to this list, as I have been unlucky with two out of three of these. This I regret all the more as they are most tame and friendly birds, and ceaselessly sing a reedy little song, which never rises above a whisper, although like the vocal efforts of the Blue-Headed Euphonia, it is produced with much exertion! But space presses and I must not particularize any more, but pass on to their general treatment.

My Tanagers are all kept in cages, good sized cages, but by no means enormous ones—and they live in them all the year round—as I have no aviary of any kind. They are in a room which gets the morning sun, such as it is in this smoky manufacturing district of the West Riding, and is heated by a fire during the winter months. I try to keep it as near 60 degrees as possible, and it seldom varies more than a couple of degrees either day or night. The top of a high window, well above the birds, is opened, generally for half an hour a day during the winter, unless the bleak winds which sweep over the hill on which this house stands make it quite impossible, in which case the door of a large room opening out of the bird-room is left open for a couple of hours. In summer, of course, they have as much fresh air as possible.

They are fed on a diet of three parts cake to one part Abraham's Food, and have unlimited banana and grapes, with, whenever possible, apple and orange, on alternate days, and they have about two mealworms per diem each. The Blue-Headed Euphonia and the Festive, being particularly fond of it, are allowed a little of the Sunbirds' sop, and I also give some occasionally to the others if they seem a little off colour, but as a regular food I am not in favour of it for Tanagers and give them as little as possible. Of course they have baths *ad. lib.*, and I generally administer a few drops of liquid magnesia in their water about once a fortnight, and when moulting a few drops of Parish's Food does them well as a tonic. These, and some of Ditchfield's Tonic Drops, in serious cases, are all my "stable-secrets."!

It may interest your readers to know that in the same room as the Tanagers, in different degrees of proximity to the fire or the windows according to their hardiness or the reverse—live one pair of Yellow-backed Red Sunbirds, one Lesser Double-collared Sunbird (♂), three Purple Sugarbirds, one Black-headed Sugarbird, one Loo-choo Robin, one pair Black-chinned Yuhinas, one Rufous-bellied Bulbul, one Black-crested Bulbul, one Troupial, one Silky Cowbird, and, last, but far from least, one Yucatan Jay—the tamest and most amusing of his or any other kind—but that is another story.

I can only in conclusion feel ashamed of the lengthy way I have rambled on, and most humbly apologize to you and your readers for having not only mounted my hobby, but ridden it so unmercifully into the bargain.

◆

British Corvidae.

By Frank Dawson-Smith.

Ravens: It may possibly interest readers of "Bird Notes" to learn something concerning the Raven. I have had several years experience with the species, and rear them annually so that I think, I may claim to know something of the bird's manners and customs.

> "While I wish to remark,—
> And my language is plain,
> That for ways that are dark,
> And for tricks that are vain,"
> The *Raven* is peculiar!

But to start at the beginning I must say that the noblest representative of the Crow tribe to be found in the British Isles is undoubtedly the Raven (*Corvus corax*). The bird is yearly becoming rarer, and, in its natural state, is to be found in comparatively few districts. It may still be found in the North of Scotland, where it creates havoc among the young Grouse. The growing scarcity of the Raven is owing to its destructive propensities, and there can be no doubt it is a great nuisance where it exists in numbers.

It nests chiefly on the cliffs, but sometimes will choose a tree for the purpose. Ravens are models of conjugal fidelity. Once mated, they are companions for life—divorce is unknown!

They occupy the same nest for years, patching it up annually with fresh sticks and rubbish, until the whole affair becomes a large and somewhat unwieldly looking structure. The Raven is omnivorous; nothing comes amiss, weak lambs, injured wild fowl, worms, eggs, and even fish are all articles of diet as occasion offers. He is large and powerful, and no small bird or animal stands much chance with him in an encounter. This description makes the Raven appear an inveterate bully, and it cannot be denied that he is to a certain extent. At the same time he is a noble and interesting bird, and well known by repute to people of all ages. It was sacred to Odin, the Danish War God, and is held in awe by superstitious peasants, partly, perhaps, owing to its curious "croaking."

When tamed, the Raven makes a pet second to none in intelligence, friendliness, and amusing ways. The best, if not the *only* way to secure one as a pet, is to obtain him from the nest when a few days old, bring him up entirely by hand, and educate him. This is no light task, as it means feeding him every two hours, starting at daybreak, and this process continues until he is able and willing to feed himself. He is never in a hurry to do this, as he much prefers to be fed and waited upon—the rogue! He should be fed upon bread and milk, soaked dog biscuit, and a *little* meat. The youngsters are queer looking little creatures until they are properly feathered. They soon learn to recognize their feeder, greeting him with loud "squeaks" and ever-gaping throats, never ceasing their outcry until they are stuffed full. I give them a large wired-in run with a wooden shelter attached, and furnished with plenty of perches, odd pieces of wood, boxes, and bits of rag which they utilize for hiding places for food, etc., and a large shallow bath filled with fresh water daily in which they love to splash about, keeping themselves beautifully clean.

They are most inquisitive birds, poking and probing everything to satisfy their curiosity. This is shown to a greater extent when they are permitted to run loose in the garden. Every Raven has his own peculiar bent of mind. I could tell innumerable tales of his deeds, tragic or comic, if space permitted, but it is only possible to speak generally in a short article. One of my Ravens had a wicked habit of pulling up the plants in the garden, and then hurrying out of reach up a tree to avoid punishment. The rascal went to such lengths in this respect that the gardener with grim determination writ large upon his honest face, said "Sir, either your bird goes or *I* does." The man was invaluable, so alas! the Raven was sent to another home. Another Raven was never destructive. He would perch on a garden seat nearly all day, croaking cheerfully at intervals, only leaving his self-chosen perch in order to chase a cat or dog, or some Black-backed Gulls that were pinioned on the lawn. Yet another Raven I had was a splendid talker and mimic. He could bark like a dog absolutely naturally. Often we have run out hearing the barking and worrying, thinking a dog was among some of the birds, only to find "Joe" on his perch, his eyes brimful of laughter, and the big black scoundrel chuckling to think he had taken us in, and laughing in a comically human way. He could imitate fowls and cats, and could caw like a Rook. I have often seen Rooks wheeling high up over his abode, completely deceived by his "caw." "Hullo, Joe! How are you?" was a favourite exclamation of his, but his proudest feat has the imitation of a "Woodpecker, tapping the hollow beech tree." One of these birds—a Green Woodpecker—was often at work near his run, and "Joe" learned to copy the tapping exactly. He would stretch his neck out, ruffle his feathers, and shake the upper and lower mandibles together.

When my Ravens get into the adult stage I give them a larger quantity of meat. In the early spring the farmers are always willing and glad to offer me any dead lambs, and the Ravens love picking and eating these. Rabbits, rats, and birds are also great luxuries, and bread, bits of cheese, potatoes, and table scraps are equally welcome. The adult bird is a handsome fellow, with a glossy metallic sheen like blue steel, on his plumage, which, in a healthy bird, is always in beautiful condition. Each year adds to his beauty. Cold weather suits him best. He intensely dislikes a hot summer. In winter, when his bath is frozen hard, he industriously employs himself by breaking the ice with his powerful beak, and then hiding the broken pieces in different places. He is terribly puzzled when the ice melts and shows his surprise and annoyance by incessant chatter, which probably is intended for verbal castigation of the looter.

Ravens agree well together as a rule, but from my experience it is fatal to put young birds with old ones. There ensues an immediate attack if that is done, the older bird doing his level best to pull the youngster's head off.

In conclusion, if anybody desires to possess an intensely interesting intelligent and amusing pet, I do not think he can do better than obtain a Raven. They are very hardy and respond to care and kindness by showing great affection. One can overlook and forgive any little delinquencies they may perpetrate occasionally.

The photograph illustrating this account shows the Raven in possession of a garden seat, which he allowed no other bird to approach.

(*To be Continued*).

Breeding Results—Boyers House Aviaries, 1914.

BY WM. SHORE BAILY.

The past season here, so far as breeding results are concerned, if not a very successful one, has at least been a very interesting one, and three if not four new records have been established. The net results are as follow :

SPECIES:

Rosella Parrakeets (5)
Alexandrine Parrakeets (3).
Black-cheeked Lovebirds (2)
Budgerigars (3).
Yellow Sparrows (5).
Dwarf Weavers (4).
Sulphury Seed-eaters (1).
Canaries (4).
Brush Bronze-wing Doves (3).
Bronze-wing Doves (3).
Necklace Doves (3).
Diamond Doves (14).
Bib Finches (3).
Zebra Finches (2).
Cutthroats (1).

HYBRIDS:

(4) Martinican × Pea Doves (*Zenaida aurita* × *Z. amabilis*).
(1) Greenfinch × Himalayan Siskin (*Ligurinus chloris* × *Chrysomitris spinoides*).
(2) Spice × Bib Finch (*Munia punctulata* × *Spermestes nana*).
(1) Spice Finch × Bengalese (*Munia punctulata* × *Uroloncha domestica*).

Other young left the nest but did not survive.

The following species and crosses nested and incubated, but failed, either to hatch out or rear their young.

DOVES: Zebra, Half-collared, and Senegal.

WEAVERS: Abyssinian and Golden.

Also, Black Seed-Finches (*Melopyrrha nigra*).

CROSS-MATED PAIRS: Cape × House Sparrow; Cinnamon Tree × House Sparrow; and Mealy × Red Rosella Parrakeet.

It may be of interest to remark re these cross-mated pairs that I was unable to obtain mates for the Cape and Cinnamon Tree Sparrows, so introduced common House Sparrows, but they never paired and in consequence there was no result, save the incubation of infertile eggs. I quite expect to get hybrids next season.

As regards the Mealy × Red Rosella Parrakeets, the latter bird was quite young, being only ten months old; she laid six eggs, but proved very unsteady on the nest, and I am hoping she may do better next year.

The mating of the Martinican × Pea Doves proved most successful which, considering how closely these two species must be related, was only to be expected. The principal difference between the two species lies in the white wing-bar,

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Young Martinican × Pea Doves.

which is much wider in the Pea Dove. I noticed a rather curious habit with this species (*Z. amabilis*), viz.: that when approached by a stranger, it would steal away from the nest, much after the manner of a Partridge, and when some distance away would flutter along the ground as if its wings were broken. I have not seen this occur with any other of the *Columbidae*. The young doves when they left the nest were facsimiles of their parents, but the young cock, now (December 26) nearly four months old, has developed large patches of sooty-black on the wings, back and crown of head; which, gives it a very curious appearance.

Of my other Doves, neither the Bleeding-hearts nor the

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Interior of Aviary with Weavers' Nests.

Masked have made any attempt to nest. The former spend most of their time on the ground, where they are fairly active; the latter spend all their time perching and are very lethargic. I hope they may do better next season.

Of the Finch-Hybrids, I have already described the rearing of the Greenfinch × Himalayan Siskin in " B.N. (Vol. V., N.S., p. 216).

The Spice × Bib Finch cross, of which two were fully reared, are very pretty little birds (*vide* plate, *ante* p. 11). I can give no data as to incubation, etc., as the nest in which they were reared, a box of loose hay, was shared with a Bengalese and B.H. Mannikin, who also attempted to bring off some hybrids. About a dozen eggs were laid, and all four birds were occasionally seen trying to incubate them at the same time; it certainly is a wonder that, with this overcrowding, any young were reared at all. So far as I could see they all had a part in feeding the young so long as they remained in the nest, but after they flew, the Spice Finch took practically sole charge.

The Spice Finch × Bengalese hybrid was in the nest quite four weeks, and only flew early this month (December), in fourteen degrees of frost; at the time of writing (Xmas Eve), it is still being fed by both parents. It is a very plainly coloured bird and little resembles either parent.

◆

Birds of the Jhelum District and an Ornithological Diary from the Punjab.

By H. Whistler, I.P., M.B.O.U.

Continued from page 24.

September 25.—Went out about 7 a.m. to shoot Blue Rock Pigeons (*Columba intermedia*) at their morning flight. There is a well on the cattle farm where the Hindus of Hissar City put down corn as a kind of charity offering for the hordes of Pigeons which live and breed in the city. The consequence is that every morning there is a steady flight between the city and the well which attracts most of the outgoing Pigeons, and one has only to form a line some couple of hundred yards on the city side of the well to enjoy some extremely pretty shooting. Birds are coming over the whole time, singly and in flocks, giving every kind of shot.

A male Indian Redstart (*Ruticilla rufiventris*) noted, and two Pied Mynahs (*Sturnopaster contra*).

In the evening I met with a big flight of Striated Swallows (sp. inc.) sitting on some telegraph wires and hawking low over a neighbouring field. They appeared to be chiefly immature birds and were of course migrating.

An immature male Eastern Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia jerdoni*) shot.

September 26.—Examined a nest containing three eggs of the Large Grey Babbler (*Argya malcolmi*), it was a slight but rather deep structure of small twigs and coarse bits of grass, lined with fine roots and horsehairs. It was suspended in the end of a drooping bough of a large kikur tree, about 15ft. from the ground.

The Indian Redstart (*Ruticilla rufiventris*) is now common and general.

September 27.—There are still fair numbers about of the Red-headed Bunting (*Emberiza luteola*).

A brood of young Peafowl met with were about the size of Grouse and able to fly well.

September 28.—Close to the bungalow a pair of White-backed Vultures (*Pseudogyps bengalensis*) have commenced building a nest at the top of a Shisham. In this in the early mornings the birds may be heard uttering the curious harsh roar which is characteristic of Vultures at the commencement of the breeding season.

Several Waterhens (*Gallinula chloropus*) noted on Rajpura jheel; on the surface of the water could be seen a number of birds which were apparently Coots, but I had no glasses with me; whatever they were they were immigrants to the jheel, as they have not been there during the hot weather. The Pheasant-tailed Jacanas which breed there during the rains have gone. Several Harrier about.

A Wryneck (*Iynx torquilla*) noted.

September 29.—A female Blue Rock Thrush (*Petrophila cyanea*) found haunting a brick-kiln, perching on the stacks of bricks. It was, of course, on migration, and proved to be very fat. Two Wheatears, namely a male White-capped Chat (*Saxicola capistrata*) and a female, possibly of the same species, were also seen in the brickyard. A Blue-throat seen. A Quail, shot, proved to be a Grey Quail (*Coturnix communis*). The Black-breasted Quail (*C. coromandelica*) which were common during the rains have all disappeared again.

Two nests of the Indian Ring Dove, each with a couple of eggs

September 30.—Whilst we were exercising my Falcons in the morning, a small Falcon passed, flying fast and performing some fine aerial evolutions. I was not certain of the species, but both the native Falconers with me said that it was a Hobby (***Falco subbuteo***) a species that I have not to my knowledge met with before. They were probably right in their identification, as both men are experienced and know the species well.

RESUME OF THE MONTH.

September has, of course, been chiefly noticeable for migration, but a few nests have been found, chiefly of common birds that breed throughout the greater part of the year.

In addition to the various notes on migrating birds given above I may note the following:

The Pied Crested Cuckoo (*Coccystes jacobinus*) has been becoming scarcer throughout the month, practically all being gone by the end of the third week.

Rose-coloured Pastors have remained abundant throughout the month. Wagtails have been fairly common, the White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) and the Masked Wagtail (*Motacilla personata*) being the majority met with, in addition to a few of the resident *M. maderaspatensis*, a few Wagtails of the *flava* type have also been noted, but I have had scant opportunity of visiting suitable ground to enable me to observe their movements properly or identify the species of Swallows; the most notable have been some species of Striated Swallow, probably *Hirundo erythropygia*, which has been very numerous and in flocks on migration. Small numbers of the beautiful Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) have been seen throughout the month—this bird is probably only a summer resident here.

Of summer visitors, such as the Indian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus kundoo*) the Purple Honey Sucker (*Arachnechthra asiatica*), and the Bee-eaters (*Merops viridis* and *M. persicus*), the majority have departed, only a few being left about by the end of the month.

◆

Editorial.

Coloured Plates. We have two of these ready for use and had intended issuing one with this number, but as there were several articles, with practical and interesting illustrations, instead of holding these up, we have deferred the issue of the first coloured plate of this volume till March issue.

Wintering Birds Out of Doors. The experience of individual members vary considerably in this respect, judging by our correspondence. It would, we are convinced, be of general interest if members would record their experience with the birds they keep out of doors—but in all cases the nature of soil and sub-soil should be stated, and also the respective areas of shelter-shed, covered-flight, and open-flight for the records to have practical value. We trust that many will respond.

Making the Club Known. The Hon. Editor is willing to visit any locality where an audience can be procured, and give a lecture (with or without lantern slides,) on "Aviaries and Aviary Life," as illustrating the objects of F.B.C., but those promoting such meetings must organise them, provide the lantern, and bear all expenses. No fee will be charged but all travelling expenses must be defrayed.

Other notes held over owing to lack of space.

◆

Correspondence.

LATE NESTING.

Sir.—In the beginning of November last, a brood of Bib Finches (*Spermestes nana*) left the nest and have never looked back. They are now January 4) indistinguishable from their parents. My birds have done well this winter, and so far, I have only lost a Paradise Whydah and a Combasou, both cocks. My aviary is an out-door one and unheated.

Manston Rectory, Dorset. (Rev.) **REG. E. P. GORRINGE.**
4/1/'15.

THE PINTAILED PARROT-FINCH

Sir,—I have been much interested in the articles on this attractive species. I have not kept many of them, but my first pair nested, constructing a neat domed nest in the shelter portion of the aviary. Either three or four young were hatched, which they fed quite well for a week or more, then threw them all out one day, just as they were beginning to feather. They wanted to go to nest again, but it was late summer and a heavy fog killed both, though apparently in perfect health. Last summer I procured another pair, but the cock died after a time without any previous attempt at breeding; the hen is still fit, though she was much pulled about by a cock Parrot-Finch, which was probably the cause of the pair making no attempt to breed.

Cressington Park, H. BRIGHT.
13/1/'15.

LATE NESTING OF RED-HEADED FINCHES.

Sir,—It may interest some members to hear that my Red-headed Finches nested in December. On December 18th, four young Redheads left the nest, and they are all still alive, doing well, and apparently very healthy. I may say my aviary is unheated and the birds have access to the open flight all the year round.

The Elm House, Nantwich. (Mrs.) M. A. SPROSTON.
25/1/'15.

A Journey Across the Sierras, S. California

By Wm. Shore Baily.

Continued from page 370, *Vol. V., New Series.*

The next day we wandered slowly on towards the coast, following the course of the Santa Clara river, here quite a nice stream. The country was charming. The river banks were lined with very fine willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores. Alfalfa fields in some of which haymaking was going on, looked pleasantly green after the bare mountain country we had just passed through. Birds were everywhere numerous; my old friends the Blackbirds, both Red-winged and Yellow-headed (*X. xanthocephalus*) being especially in evidence). I found several nests of the latter in the tules, along the river bank. They were built in very much the same way as the Red-wings. This part of the valley was given up to stock raising, and we passed one fine ranch, which, from the way it was kept, evidently belonged to an Englishman. Three fourths of the landowners in this part of California are Mexicans. Amongst the stock on this ranch we saw a large flock of Crows (*Corvus americanus hesperis*), walking about much as our Rooks do at home. In the river bank we passed another colony of Bank Swallows, and while looking at their nests, I spotted a Barn Owl (*Strix pratincola*) in a hole near the top of the bank, a rather curious place for this kind of bird to breed. The three young ones were quite plainly visible from the road. At mid-day we halted, near a large cactus patch, and after lunch I went birds'-nesting. The first nest found was the Ruby-throated Humming Bird's. A beautiful bird and an equally perfect cup-shaped nest. This was suspended from a giant thistle and contained two tiny white eggs. This Humming Bird (*Trochilus rufus*) is found all through California, and I have seen it in summer in the high Sierras. I also found a nest of the Grey Thrasher (*Harporhynchus redivivus*) a bird not unlike the Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*) but greyer in colour and with shorter bill. The nest was like our Blackbird's, as were the eggs also. Another nest found was that of the Californian Goldfinch (*Chrysomitris tristis*), a little yellow bird with a black head and much more like a

Siskin than a Goldfinch. Its nest was in some nettles, and was cup-shaped. The eggs were like a pale edition of our Hedge Sparrow's. In the afternoon we passed through large tracts of Barley, this part of the valley producing a high-class malting variety. Doves and Larks were numerous, and we were seldom out of sight of the Red-wings. At a barn where we stopped to water the horse, a pair of Barn Swallows (*Clivicola riparia*) were nesting. The eggs were like those of our Swallow, white with red spots, principally at the larger end. It was after sundown when we reached Santa Paula, and as we drove through the town a flock of the large Californian Nightjar (*C. texensis*) were hawking around the street lamps. These interesting birds breed on the ground in the neighbouring mountains, and I knew of a place where several nests could be found. We camped this night in the grounds of a friend of my partners and had supper with him. Quite a pleasant change after our camp cooking.

The next day we set off for Santa Barbara, by way of a mountain pass, the name of which I forget. The first part of the journey led through well-kept fruit ranches, Santa Paula being a great fruit centre, over one thousand tons of apricots, and five hundred tons of prunes having been dried there for shipment, the previous summer. It has also a large oil refinery, the crude oil being brought to the refinery through pipes laid down the valley we were now ascending. As we proceeded the valley narrowed, and once more we were into the chapparal country, rather different here to what it was in the higher Sierras. Here we saw another variety of Jay (*A. californica*) not so pretty a bird as the Blue Jay seen previously. It is a common bird on the coast. It makes a nest of sticks similar to that of our English Jay and in like situations. Eggs, dirty white, blotched with rufous. Alongside the road ran a small irrigating ditch, and in the bushes and weeds growing on the banks a good many birds were to be seen. I caught glimpses of a little Grey Flycatcher, probably (*E. difficilis* or *E. pusillus)*, also several Warblers very like our Willow Wren. They were probably (*H. celata lutescens*). At mid-day our trail branched off, and turned due west again, and the next six or seven miles we had to walk, the grade being very steep. This gave me a better chance to observe the birds than when driving. Every here and there, little streamlets crossed the road, dropping to the valley below in miniature falls. Ferns and similar plants flourished on the moist banks, as did Scycamores and other small trees. Here, for the first time on the trip, we found insectivorous birds really at home. Especially noticeable was the Blue Bird (*Sialia mexicana*) by far the most striking of any of the Californian small birds. Its plainly-coloured mate was probably on its nest, as I did not see it. A pair of Wrens (*C. mexicanus conspersus*) were creeping about the roots of a sycamore, on an upper branch of which a Pigeon had her nest, and was brooding a pair of squabs. The cock was perched near by, looking very handsome in the sun, his rich yellow legs being plainly visible. At a bend of the road we surprised a White-tailed Doe and her two fawns, almost as big as herself. Our dog promptly gives chase but is easily out-distanced, as they scamper up the mountain. These animals are about twice the size of our Roe Deer and very similar in appearance. As we near the top of the mountain wild oats take the place of the chapparal, making splendid feed for deer and stock. Here and there are groves of wild walnuts, a tree indigenous to the country. We soon reach the top of the pass, which in this case is practically the top of the mountain as well, and are rewarded by a most glorious view. Due west, the sun is well down over a blue Pacific. Between it and us lies the fertile Ventura Valley covered with well cultivated fruit-ranches and dotted with comfortable looking houses. To the south the mountains throw out a series of spurs towards the sea, forming deep valleys and canyons, occupied by small ranchers who grow stock, and make hay to sell to their richer brethren on the fruit-ranches. To the north the range runs an unbroken line as far as the eye can see, apparently getting higher and more heavily timbered the further north it goes. Immediately below us the trail drops precipitately to the valley—down this we now made our way at a good pace, arriving at the bottom in a little more than an hour, about one fourth of the time it took us to ascend on the other side.

We pitched camp in a fine grove of Oaks, surrounding a school-house. After our hard day's climb I was too tired to take a stroll after supper, but whilst we were resting we heard a Mocking Bird (*Mimus polyglottus*) singing in a neighbouring orchard. This is a really first class song-bird and is about the only one really worth listening to out West. Other Warblers were also singing, but their voices are so low that they are not often noticed.

To be continued.

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Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules, see page II. of cover.

MAGPIE MANNIKIN. (B. T. Stewart), Radlett, Herts. The cause of death was pneumonia.

GREY WAXBILL. (T. Foster), Babbacombe, South Devon. The cause of death was pneumonia, which is a very fatal disease of the avian species. Some writers have asserted this is a rare disease of birds, but that is an erroneous statement, for according to my experience it is just as prevalent as it is in the domesticated animals. You cannot do better than keep a sick bird in a very high temperature, much higher than we can withstand. This is in consequence of birds, especially the smaller species having normal temperatures very much higher than our own. Try in the drinking water best brandy and acetosalic acid, 10 drops of the spirit and 3 grains of the acid to a dessert-spoonful of water

ZEBRA FINCH. The cause of death was the same as that of the Grey Waxbill. Foreign birds in general, when kept in confinement, withstand our changeable climate quite as well as British birds kept under similar conditions. Birds in confinement cannot change their surroundings and alter their habits to suit the changes of season or climate as they would when at liberty. Hence they are liable to all the maladies of civilization or domestication. The survivors become acclimatized or immune to altered surroundings. The majority of imported birds, however, succumb to disease arising from the insanitary condition in which they are kept. A change of food should be made according to the season or climate. A recorded account of the longevity of birds would be interesting. Why not publish your experience in "B.N.," I feel certain Mr. Page would be grateful. (I certainly should.—Ed.).

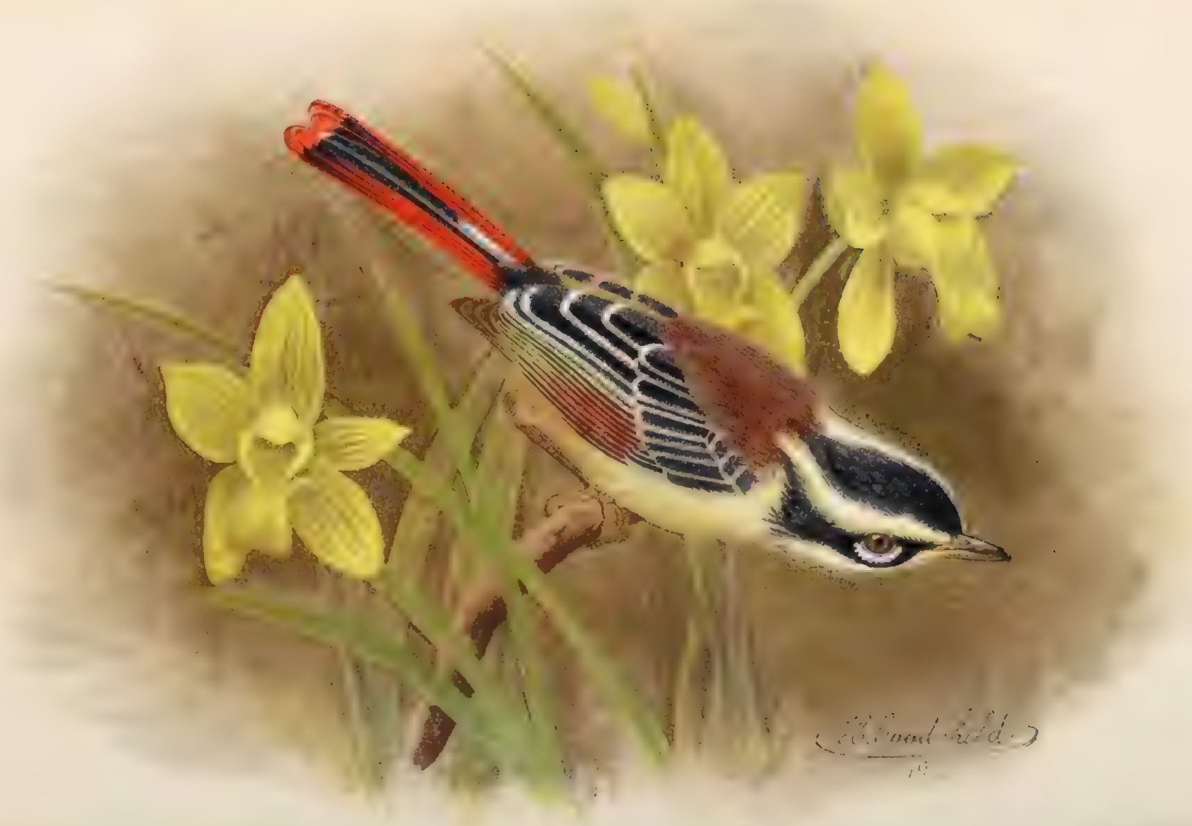
VIOLET-EARED WAXBILL (♀). (Geo. Scott Freeland), Tonbridge. The cause of death was pneumonia.

BLUE-WINGED LOVEBIRD. (Mrs. E. G. Davies), Warrington. The post mortem appearances suggest that the bird died during convulsions, to which this species is very subject.

ALARIO FINCH. (H. A. Swayne), Dublin. Cause of death enteritis

Answered by Post: Geo. Scott Freeland.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



RED-TAILED MINLA.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Red-tailed Minla *(Minla igneotincta).*

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., etc.

This is another beautiful species introduced to English aviculture by our member, Major G. A. Perreau, in March, 1913, along with many other beautiful and rare species. It is the only living specimen of its kind in Europe and I was fortunate to have the opportunity of studying it for several days before it passed into the hands of its present and much to be envied owner, Mr. A. Ezra, and I have also seen it several times since.

India is fortunate in its avifauna: those of beautiful plumage, song and form, quaint demeanour, forceful character, etc., which it has given to English Aviculture, and which we know as living creatures inhabiting cage or aviary, are almost legion; yet every consignment, more especially those promoted by private enterprise, introduces something new and beautiful—and for all the attributes that go to make a charming bird, exquisite plumage, quaint demeanour, graceful contour, and forceful character, the subject of this sketch is second to none. A glance at our charming frontispiece, on which this species is depicted with Mr. Goodchild's usual skill, renders unnecessary further eulogy of this species, but beautiful as is the picture it falls far short of the living gem, which is now darker in colour than when its portrait was painted.

Mr. A. Ezra, after an experience of ten months, kindly sent me the following :

"Of all the soft-billed birds I have ever kept I find the Red-tailed Minla the most fascinating. He is such an active little fellow and his movements are so graceful and elegant. I have had him for nearly ten months now and I find him quite hardy and easy to cater for. His food consists of Insectile Mixture, plenty of fruit, which he loves, and a couple of mealworms per diem—he is not by any means a greedy bird and seems to do well on very little food. Although not a songster he possesses quite a pretty call. A huge bath is his greatest treat and he never misses taking a good "tub" every morning.

It is a pretty sight to see him flying round the room every morning, he inspects all the other birds in turn by running up and down the wire fronts of their cages, bent on mischief too pulling about their grapes and banana much to their disgust.

He is really a great favourite of mine and I am delighted to own such an interesting bird." A. Ezra, 31/1/'14.

Our coloured frontispiece renders a description of the male unnecessary. The female differs from the male materially, though the general pattern is similar: back, scapulars and upper tail-coverts, vinous-brown; the crimson areas of the male in wings and tail are pinkish white and pale red respectively in the female.

The total length of the male is 5½ inches, of which the tail measures 2¼.

Distribution: Nepal; Sikhim; Bhutan; Nága Hills, Manipur, and is found up to 9,000 feet, which we may broadly summarise so: the majestic Himalayas, from 5,000 to 9,000 feet, are its home. How impossible to describe the full natural setting of this bird, for though I have never visited India, yet from the pens of various travellers it is an open picture, in so far as it is possible to describe such colossal grandeur and magnificence; a few quotations may enable us to grip this.

> "A jungle rhapsody, an extravagant, impossible *tour de force*, in
> "tensely modern in its Titanic, incoherent magnificence."

> "From 5,000 to 10,000 feet, several species of evergreen
> "oaks abound. . . . . . the rhododendron, the deodar, and other
> "hill cypresses, and the beautiful horse-chestnut."

> "On the vast ridges of elevated mountain masses, which
> "constitute the Himalayas, are found regions of distinct character.
> "The loftiest peaks of the snowy range abutting on the great plateaux
> "of Central Asia and Tibet run like a great belt across the globe,
> "falling to the south-west to the plains of India. Between the
> "summit and the plains, a distance of 60 to 70 miles, there are
> "higher, middle. and lower ranges, so cut up by deep and winding
> "valleys and river-courses, that no labyrinth could be found more
> "difficult to unravel . . . . . The torrents rushing from under the
> "glaciers which flow from the snow-clad summits roar and foam,
> "eating their way ever into the misty gorges."

> "At a place about 16 miles above Bageswar the valley off
> "the Sarju suddenly contracts into a gorge with precipitous cliffs.
> "The scenery here is superb. The path passes through a shady glade

"in the midst of which rushes the roaring, foaming river. The trunks "and larger branches of the trees are covered with ferns and hanging "moss. The landscape might well be the original for a phase of a "transformation scene at a pantomime. In the midst of this glade "the stream is crossed by a wooden bridge."

Space forbids further description, but in our member's (Mr. D. Dewar) latest work* a descriptive chapter is devoted to the Himalayas, from which most of the above quotations are taken.

Amid such surroundings the Minla lives his life, bringing other Minlas into the world to take his place when "he goeth West." Here this bonny gem and his equally handsome spouse seek out the site of Minla Castle, constructing a neat cup-shaped nest of moss and grass in a bushy tree (*the fortunate aviculturist who gets the first pair should give them similar accommodation*), and depositing therein four white eggs, spotted with rusty-red. Unless a tragedy of the woods occur, the young are brought up and duly enter the wide world, where the happy family party may be seen clinging round and under the branches of the trees, diligently searching for insects. May a similar picture soon be seen in some English aviary is the fervent wish of the writer, and he will be pleased indeed if it be at Mitcham!

Mr. Ezra's eulogy of his charming specimen is not an exaggeration; such is an impossibility with this species. On several occasions I have seen it flying about Mr. Ezra's bird-room, where its demeanour and deportment was such that it made me long and long to see a pair amid the precincts of a wilderness aviary; a desire which I hope may yet be realised.

Considering its range and distribution, there should be no difficulty in keeping the species in the open during spring, summer, and early autumn, and given the protection of four walls should fare well for the colder months of the year.

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A Journey Across the Sierras, S. California.

By Wm. Shore Baily.

(*Continued from page* 52).

Next morning, as we set out, the mountains behind us were covered with fog, which gradually found its way down

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*Birds of the Indian Hills, *vide* review.

to the valley. Our road lay through ranches mainly devoted to walnut growing, this being the principal walnut producing section in the State. Thousands of tons are shipped East annually, and the industry is a very prosperous one. Fog prevented us from seeing any birds, but about mid-day it cleared, and we found that we were skirting a large lagoon on the one side, and on the other large fields of brilliant blue flowers, which I have since been told were flax. On the mud banks in the Lagoon were large flocks of Waders. Quite close to the road Avocets (*Recurvirostris americana*) and Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) were feeding, whilst farther out hundreds of Whimbrel (*Numenius hudsonicus*) and a few Curlew (*N. longirostris*) were busy probing in the mud. I have shot scores of these Whimbrel and also of the European variety (*N. phaeopus*) and I am quite unable to differentiate between them. Their whistle is also indistinguishable from the European birds' call.

After lunch I took the dog for a stroll along the saltings and he flushed a large Rail (*Rallus obsoletus*), a bird about the size of our Moorhen, but coloured like our Water Rail. I shot it and it proved fairly good eating at supper. We also got quite close to a pair of Snowy Egrets (*Ardea egretta*) now in full breeding plumage and looking very handsome. Several big Grey Herons (*A. herodias*) were also fishing in the shallow water. Several kinds of Gulls, including Herring (*Larus argentatus*), Black-backed (*L. occidentalis*), and Californian Black-headed Gull (*L. philadelphicus*) were swimming or flying over the water. 'A few cormorants (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*) were also present. They appear to be much more numerous on inland waters than they are on the coast.

On returning from my walk we resumed our journey along the coast towards Santa Barbara. A range of low sandhills hid the sea, but the low roar of the surf could be plainly heard, and made us long for a real good swim once more in salt water. We passed numerous ranches, most of them largely given up to fruit-growing, but here and there alfalfa, flax, and barley were also cultivated. In the orchards the Blue Birds and the Orioles were the birds most frequently noticed, probably because of their brilliant colours. In the alfalfa and growing grain Larks and Doves were the commonest birds. Late in the afternoon we reached a wharf about four miles from Santa Barbara and decided to camp there for a few days.

The wharf was built to ship asphaltum which is quarried in the neighbourhood. At this time we had it to ourselves and got some excellent fishing from it. A few miles off the coast are some large islands. These protect the mainland from the westerly gales, and this is one of the few places on the Pacific Coast where there is no surf. A little stream ran over the cliff, supplying us with fresh water, and as there was plenty of grass for the horse and enough drift wood for fires, we had all a couple of campers could want. After a refreshing swim we went fishing from the end of the wharf and soon had enough fish for supper, and a very welcome change to our dietary we found them.

The next day, leaving my partner fishing, I walked into Santa Barbara to get groceries, etc. Santa Barbara is extremely well protected both from the east and west winds, and consequently Orange, Palm and similar trees do as well here as they do much further south. A good many ranches had fine Orange and Olive groves, and amid the foliage of these trees, insectivorous birds were thoroughly at home. The Orange trees were especially favoured, as these are nearly always in bloom. It is a common thing to see ripe Oranges, half-grown green ones, and flowers on the same tree. I saw two kinds of Humming Birds working these flowers, the Ruby-throated already noted, and the Green (*T. alleni*). These little gems were always to be seen, in and about the Magnolias, which here grow to an enormous size. The Blue Bird and his mate, and the Oriole were in every orchard. Vireos (*Vireo huttoni*), a little insect-eater, very like our White-throat, crept about the branches, and Warblers (*H. celata lutescens*) like our Willow-Wren darted from tree to tree. A more brilliantly coloured and fairly common bird was the Crimson Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*). I saw one or two of their nests in quite small gardens right in the town. I also noticed a Flycatcher's nest in a creeper growing up a house in the principal street. The old birds were constantly taking in insects to the young, regardless of the passers by. This town, on account of its climate, is one of the most popular seaside resorts on the Pacific Coast. It boasts of many fine residences and some good hotels, and also a very interesting old mission. After lunching at a restaurant I walked back to camp along the sands. Here about the most striking looking bird was the big Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus californicus*). He is not nearly so handsome as his White cousin of Buena Vista. Unlike the latter, they appear to take their food by diving from the sky much in the same way as does our Gannet, but of course making a much bigger splash. Amongst the little birds seen were the Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*) in large flocks and the Little Ringed Plover (*Aegialitis dubia*). These last were, I believe, breeding, and I spent some considerable time looking for their nests, but without success. They are considerably smaller than *Ae. hiaticola* and have less black on the forehead. The next two days we spent bathing and fishing, and had very good sport. Some of the Californian fish are equal to any fish on the table and give very good sport in the water, too.

(*To be continued*)

The Black Tanager *(Tachyphonus melaleucus).*

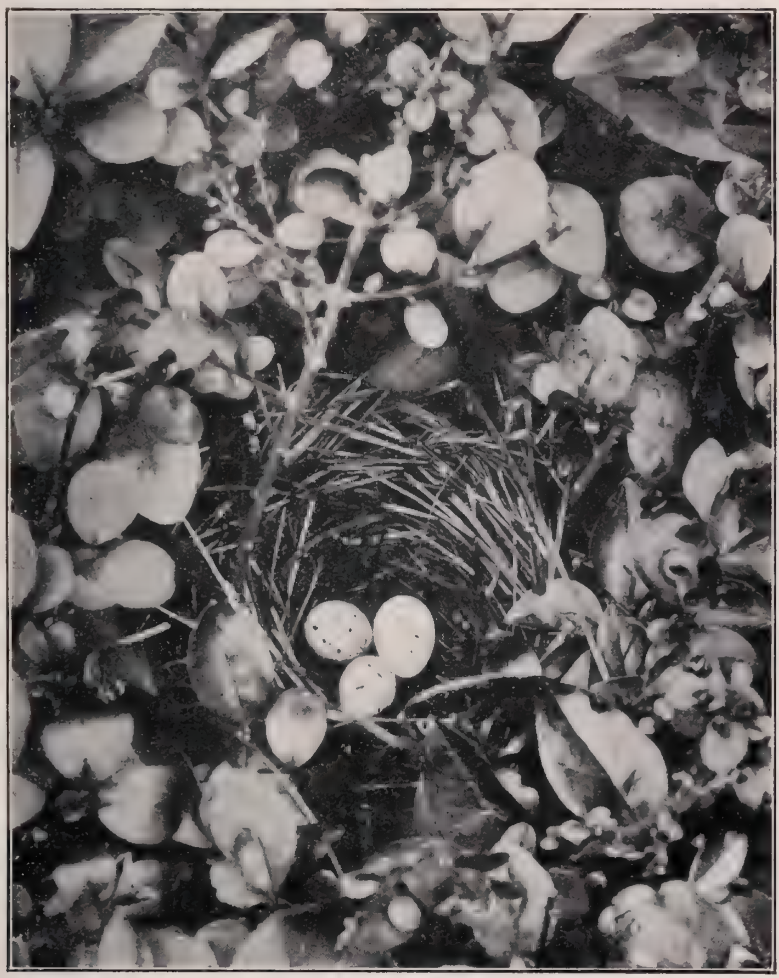
By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

Though *Tachyphonus* is a plainly clad genus, that is, it has no gorgeously hued and richly variegated garment, as have so many genera of the TANAGRIDAE; yet there are few Tanagers that are more handsome, either in appearance, contour or deportment.

But little space need be occupied with plumage description. The cock is a rich indigo-black, with pure white shoulder-patches, the latter almost obscured except when the bird is on the wing. The female differs entirely from her mate, and is of an even rich hazel-brown (polished tan), duller below, but lustrous and silken above, and like her mate is most elegant in form. Both are full of character, and their vivacity makes them conspicuous objects in the aviary.

The photos illustrating these notes were taken by Mr. Willford in his aviaries four or more years ago, at least it was about four years ago when Mr. Willford's birds passed into my possession by way of exchange. For comparison purposes I am also including the plate of the nest built in Mr. Teschemaker's aviary.

But very few of the TANAGRIDAE have as yet reared young in captivity. I think only the following: Black, Scarlet,



Nest and Eggs of Black Tanager. *Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.*

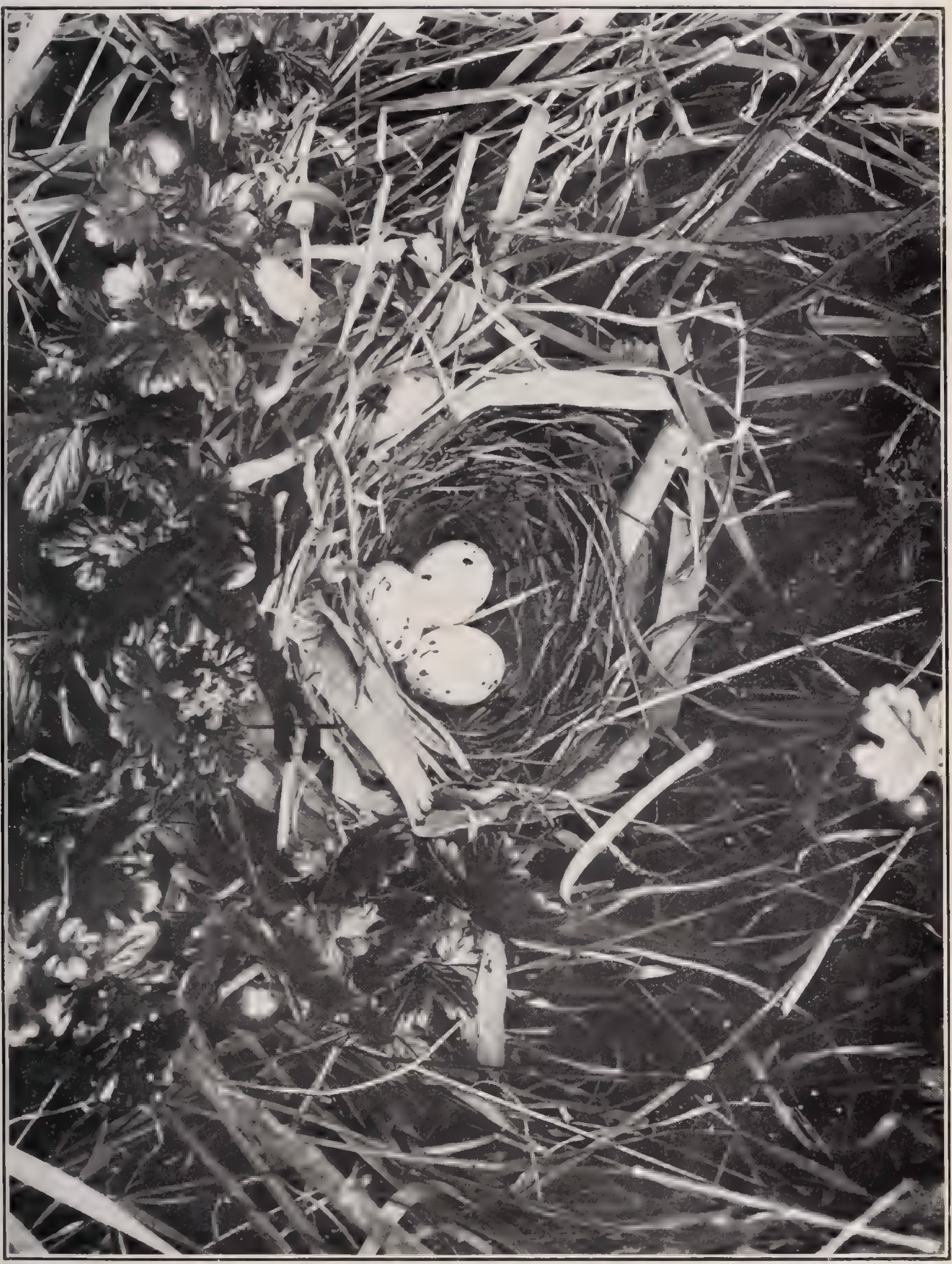
Blue, Palm and Magpie, though success has been nearly achieved with two or three other species. As regards the Black Tanager, this has been bred several times, though so far as I know, full success has only been achieved in four aviaries, viz.: Mr. W. E. Teschemaker's, Mr. Willford's, the London Zoo, and my own. An account of Mr. Teschemaker's success was published in a back volume of "B.N." (Vol. VI., F.S., p.p. 201-3), to which I must refer my readers.

I must now refer to the photos illustrating this article: Mr. Willford's pair of birds reared several broods while with him, and the aviary in which they were taken was one of a series erected over a neglected gooseberry and currant plantation, interspersed with standard fruit trees, having been let run wild, the whole was a tangled mass, the bushes being almost obscured with convolvulus and other wild creepers. Amid this ideal cover the Black Tanagers built their home and brought up several families; further description is uncalled for, as the photos are so full of detail as to be self-descriptive. Here my description of Mr. Willford's birds in his aviary must cease, as I have no other details of their history than the bare fact of their successes, and that I saw the nest and incubating bird, as in photos, before their picture was taken.

As already intimated, Mr. Willford's birds passed into my possession about four years ago; unfortunately the hen took a chill *en route* and only lived a day, but a little later Mr. Willford sent me another hen. My experience of these birds has been a rather varied one. During their first season in my aviary nothing happened—their demeanour in the aviary being charming, and their wing evolutions delightful to witness. What a charming bird the male is, as, after a flight, he clings to netting or bough, with wings outspread, butterfly-like, showing the full extent of the beautiful pure white shoulder-patches, and, as often happened, the hen alights very near, making a charming contrast of rich lustrous indigo-black and white, and richest of hazel-browns. Practically the whole season was spent in such deportment and the inspection of numerous nest receptacles, but neither nest nor eggs resulted. I may remark before passing on, that the male utters some very rich, full and mellow notes as he chases his mate about during the nesting season. Also that now, after the experience of four years, the only misdeeds I can accuse the male of is the slaughter of an Indian Desert Bullfinch, and one of his own sons, when the latter was changing from nestling to adult plumage, though they had for companions some small

Black Tanager (♀).

Photo by H Willford.



Black Tanager's Nest and Eggs. *Photo by H. Willford.*

PLOCEIDAE and FRINGILLIDAE, as well as TURDIDAE, STURNIDAE and other TANAGRIDAE.

The following year numerous attempts at nesting were made, but the hen would not build a nest, though the male several times brought her bents, etc.; eventually she fixed on a small travelling-cage, from which the front wires had been removed. The box hung against one of the internal standards was almost hidden by rambling sprays of a Hiawatha rose. Here she deposited a clutch of eggs on the bare wood, but all these were spoiled by rolling about, though two of them contained partly formed chicks; however, after she had been incubating for three weeks I broke the eggs with the above result, two had been fertile, the other was clear.

After this I stuffed some hay in the box and did not go near it for a fortnight, when, on looking in, I saw she was again incubating, but that every vestige of hay had been removed from the box—again another clutch of eggs was spoiled. However, she absolutely refused to build a nest and even removed such bents as her mate placed around her. Yet another clutch was laid under the same conditions and with a similar barren result; thus another season was wasted. I must repeat myself so far as to say that their deportment, though very similar, was even more charming and interesting than that of the previous year.

I do not think the eggs of this species have as yet been described in our Journal. The size, shape, and pattern are excellently rendered in the two photographs, and it only remains to add that the ground colour is very pale greenish-blue, and the spots and markings deep black. There was scarcely any variation in the score or more eggs which were laid in my aviary.

This brings us to their third year (1913) with me. I had not a great deal of hope of ultimate success, though I could see the mother instinct was very keen by the way she tried to mother the young of other species, more particularly the young Grey-winged Ouzels. Last season's doings were repeated up to the end of May, when she insisted on assisting the hen Grey-winged Ouzel to incubate, the cock Black Tanager keeping off the male Ouzel while she was on the nest. After the young Ouzels were hatched she insisted on taking up to them every mealworm she could get hold of, and though there were several scrimmages between the Tanagers and Ouzels, she would not be denied. When the young Ouzels flew she still followed them about and mothered them as if they were her own. Eventually the Tanagers claimed the Ouzel's nest, which was built in a barrel, the front end of which had been removed. A clutch of three eggs was duly deposited and steadily incubated solely by the hen; the cock mostly fed the hen on the nest, and merely stood over the eggs for such short intervals as she left the nest. For the first week she would not allow the male to enter the nest, but took the food from him and passed it on to her fledgeling. About the eighth day I noticed both birds foraging for flies, etc., and both taking their captures to the nest. The young bird flew when it was about twenty days old and never looked back, but unfortunately it died during its first moult.

1914 opened not one bit more promising than the preceding seasons; she still refused to construct a cot for herself and future offspring. In lieu of a family of her own she still persisted in playing the mother to Grey-wing Ouzels, and on this occasion I lost two fine young Ouzels owing to their parents becoming disgusted and leaving them to the Tanagers, who appeared to be unequal to the task alone, and the Ouzels died when all but fully fledged. Though left in undisturbed possession of the Ouzels' nest, she did not use it on this occasion, but took to a rush nest placed high up under the eave of the shelter shed. How many eggs were laid I can't say, but one egg was found in the nest, two half shells were picked up in the aviary, and one young bird duly left the nest. I was unable to keep any data owing to the height of the nest, but the gross period occupied and the details of incubation, etc., were similar to that of the preceding year: therefore, I can only say that the young bird was fully reared, its plumage resembling that of the adult hen, but slightly greyer in tone, and lacked the sheen of the adult bird. About a week after the young bird left the nest, the hen took no further notice of it, but its male parent assiduously fed it for another fortnight. This young bird was slaughtered by its male parent during the moult.

The hen at once began prospecting again and chose a barrel (9 inches in diameter) with open end, and this time constructed an open cup-shaped nest, at the back of one used by the Ouzels earlier in the year. This barrel was fixed under the eave of the shelter, nine feet above the ground; I only looked in once and saw a clutch of four eggs, which I think had already been incubated for several days. As near as I can tell incubation, and the period the fledgelings (2) remained in the nest coincided with that of the previous broods; but, on this occasion I had a better opportunity of observing the family party during the period in which young birds are commonly termed branchers. About a week after the young were hatched my supply of mealworms gave out, and I could not obtain any, though trying all sources. But I procured some gentles and by scattering these amid the growing grass (extravagant method) and over the bushes the Tanagers, by quick foraging, managed to secure a fair supply. I noticed, after the first few days that both parents carried to the nest sponge cake from the milk-sop and also fairly large pieces of banana and apple. I further saw them after the young had emerged, putting similar supplies into the open mouths of the young. The two young did not perch together when they left the nest, but occupied different sides of the aviary, and, it appeared to me that the male looked solely after one and the hen the other. These two birds were most interesting to watch, as though the birds were shy and secretive when one was in the aviary, once outside the netting the birds ignored you and went about their foraging and passing their captures on to their young without any attempt at concealment whatever. One moment a fly would be taken, again it would be a piece of sponge cake and again fruit and in the later stages seed also, for adult *Tachyphonae* consume a considerable amount of seed. For fully two months after they flew these two young were assiduously fed by their parents.

This was a most interesting period, as the demeanour and young made a most interesting and pleasing picture of bird-life, and, I fear, I neglected my "B.N." duties a little to watch them—they are equally pleasing now in January's cold, wet, and snowy days, for they appear quite oblivious of the most inclement weather and form a most striking and charming picture of active bird-life at the present time (January 24th).

The young are now scarcely to be distinguished from their mother, having lost the greyishness of the nestling garment, and as they both now possess the rich sheen of the adult, I opine that they are two hens.

But, I seem to hear some one saying: "How did you feed them?" as I am told, even though it has often appeared before, that to meet the needs of all readers, the menu should *always* be given. This is not always easy when one keeps a cosmopolitan crowd in the same aviary. However, here is my daily menu. A seed mixture of canary, millets, paddy rice, hemp, sunflower, rape, maw, and various wild seeds; the two first named items forming the bulk of the mixture. Insectile mixture, to which grocer's currants are added (for the sake of Waxwings, Ouzels and Starlings) and I find the Tanagers and Fruitsuckers are fond of these, about 2 lb. of currants, per week, being consumed in my aviary. Milk-sop—Nestle's milk, Mellin's Food, and sponge cake mixed with boiling water is constantly supplied; the same applies to fruit. The Black Tanagers help themselves to all including a considerable amount of seed.

I am afraid I am lavish in the supply of live food: *when obtainable* a 7lb. box of mealworms only lasts me about two months, or less. Except for special birds with young, I supply these twice a day, and usually scatter a couple of handfuls "helter-skelter" about the aviary and leave the birds to forage for themselves. Such is my method also of distributing live ants' eggs, gentles, etc. Of course, such pets as Gold-fronted Fruitsuckers and Indian Flycatchers get their supplies from my fingers or come to hand for them.

I would remark that Black Tanagers are great fly-catchers, and that their wing evolutions in pursuit of game are most striking and interesting. In spite of the lack of gorgeous hues, Black Tanagers are bonny birds.

Now, my yarn is finished, I am ashamed at its inordinate length, but I trust it will interest some of my readers. At any rate the blame must lie with some of these, as I have been twitted with being too sparing in detail.

◆

Nesting of the Grey Finch *(Spermophila grisea).*

By R. Suggitt.

I have possessed a good many pairs of the handsome and hardy little Grey Finch (*S. grisea*).

The first consignment of eleven birds, were jointly imported by Mr. A. Sutcliffe and myself, from Colombia, in 1908. Up to this time the species appears to have been extremely rare, and it is possible that this was the first arrival of living birds in this country.

Two birds, out of this lot, were exhibited by Mr. Sutcliffe at the Crystal Palace in 1909, as a pair, but really the supposed female was a young male, just commencing to get his adult plumage. These birds were awarded the fourth prize in their class, it being the first appearance of the species on the show-bench.

In 1910 about 150 specimens were received, mostly from Trinidad, of which I kept several pairs.

The male is quite a handsome little bird. His plumage is principally slate grey, with darker wings and tail, and a good deal of white on the underparts; his beak is bright yellow. In the female the grey is replaced with various shades of brown, and her beak is black.

In spite of their strong beaks, they are quite harmless to other small species in the aviary. They squabble considerably amongst themselves, but their disputes are usually confined to threatening language; they seldom actually fight.

The male has a very pleasant song, the notes being clear and loud.

Our Editor successfully reared young of this species in his aviary in 1911, and again in 1912.

From the commencement of the season in 1910, to the end of 1912, I had 6 pairs flying together in my aviary, all in splendid condition. It may have been owing to the fact that so many pairs were associated together, that no attempt was made to nest during these three summers. At the commencement of the 1913 season, I had disposed of most of them, my stock being reduced to a single pair.

On June 4th the hen of this pair commenced to build near the top of a box-bush. The materials used were very fine fibres and rootlets, and seemed to be selected for lightness and strength.

Only a single fibre was woven into the nest at once, and great pains were taken to fasten each piece securely into position by the aid of spider-web, laboriously collected from corners and bushes. The hen worked very hard, but the progress made was necessarily slow, and the time occupied in completing the nest was 8 days. The cock may have assisted her at times, but only on one occasion I saw him build in a piece of material.

The nest, when completed, was a very neat cup-shaped structure, apparently quite fragile, but in reality very strongly woven to the supporting twigs.

Two eggs were laid altogether, the first on June 13th, the second on the following day, when the hen began to incubate.

The eggs are rather large, and long in proportion to their breadth. The ground colour is dirty white, spotted and blotched over the entire surface with pale brown, and with some heavy lines of very dark brown at the larger end.

During the period the hen was incubating, the cock mounted guard on one of the adjoining bushes, in such a position that he could get a full view of his mate on the nest. He would allow no other bird to perch on the bush containing the nest driving them off with a fierce rush, and continuing the pursuit round and round the aviary. When the hen slipped off for food and a little exercise, he would perch on the edge of the nest, and remain there until her return. I never saw him actually sit on the eggs, or feed her while she was incubating.

Both eggs hatched on June 26th, twelve days after incubation commenced. The skin of the newly hatched chick is purplish brown in colour, the down dark grey; inside of mouth, red, with a yellow spot on each side of base of tongue; corners of mouth creamy white.

Insects, collected from the grass and bushes, formed the greater part of the food of the nestlings for the first few days, unripe grass-seed was also given to them freely, and occasionally millet was visible in their crops.

The young ones had scarcely grown at all when they were a week old. One of them was extremely weak, and appeared to be very little larger than when first hatched, and I lost all hope of rearing them when I saw the old birds flying direct from the millet-tray to feed them.

On July 8th, the weak one died at the age of twelve days; the remaining one, however, had made rapid progress, and appeared to be fully feathered.

About this time, I saw the old birds eating gentles for the first time.

The young one came out of the nest at 7 o'clock in the evening of July 11th. It was only just able to flutter to the ground, and the old birds had a great deal of trouble to entice it to perch on the lower branches of a bush, before darkness came on. The following morning the young one was perched on the top of a privet hedge, and looked quite "perky." Its parents were greatly excited, and were most attentive to it.

A few days later the cock was killed by a Thrush, but the hen continued to feed the young one, until it was almost two months old.

On October 17th I found the young one dead; it had probably been killed by some other bird, as earlier in the day it was in the best of health and spirits.

This bird was undoubtedly a male. It sang almost incessantly for the last few weeks of its life, but although it was 16 weeks old at the time of its death, it so closely resembled the old female that the latter could only be distinguished by a small celluloid ring on her foot.

◆

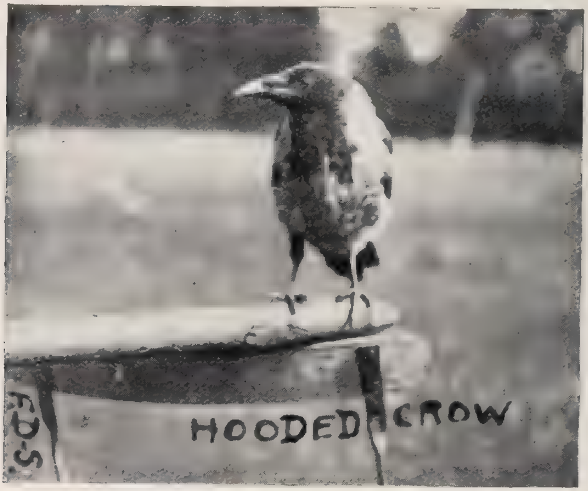
British Corvidae.

By Frank Dawson-Smith.

(Continued from page 42).

The Carrion Crow (*Corvus coróne*). Having fully discussed in a former article the finest member of this family, I will now proceed to the consideration of the Raven's smaller relation—the Carrion Crow. This bird is to all intents and purposes a miniature Raven, both in colour and habits. It is a bird of somewhat solitary state, and does not nest in communities. It makes an intelligent pet, and, being smaller, lacks the Raven's ability for mischief. Some become quite good talkers, and hand-reared specimens get very tame and confiding.

THE HOODED CROW (*Corvus córax*) : A closely allied species which dwells in large numbers in the northern parts of Great Britain. He is an exceedingly handsome fellow with his grey and black plumage, and, as a pet, is more desirable than the Carrion Crow. Numbers of these birds frequent the cliffs in the Shetland Isles for breeding purposes. I secured mine from this locality, and reared them easily by hand. The "Hoodie" takes his name from the lustrous black of his head, representing a black velvet hood.



THE ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*): This is an extremely well-known bird, and may be found in all districts. It eats a large quantity of grain and worms, in which it differs from the Crows in taste. In captivity it may be fed on household scraps, biscuit meal, &c. When adult the Rook is easy to keep, but the young are considerably more difficult to rear than Crows. It makes an excellent pet, and is not as mischievous as the majority of the Crow tribe.

THE JACKDAW (*Corvus monédula*): Another common and easily procured species, and quite easy to rear from the nest. The majority of those which I reared were allowed to run loose. Picture to yourself eighteen youngsters, just able to strut uncertainly about the lawn. They knew their feeding time to the minute, and if the smallest delay occurred they would set up a deafening chorus of "caws." They would stand in a row, with beaks wide open, expostulating and demanding attention. It was impossible to sit undisturbed in their vicinity when they grew older and able to move about. They would settle on my head, shoulders, and knees, and occasionally enliven proceedings with a loud "squawk" in my ear, making me jump with the sudden attack of noise. The following season two of this lot nested in a hollow tree near the house, and each year since they have successfully reared their young. They used to come down to be fed, but would not again take food from the hand. The adult Jackdaw appears at his best in winter, when his plumage positively shines, and each succeeding year adds to his beauty. All the Crow-tribe are at their best in winter. The cold is infinitely preferred to the heat of summer months.

Young Jackdaws
F.D.S

THE MAGPIE (*Pica rustica*): A species which is gradually becoming scarcer, in most districts, owing, principally, to its persecution by gamekeepers. Their nest is usually to be found in the summits of tall trees, and is made of sticks, and domed in shape. Occasionally it resorts to a hedge or bush for the purpose, but in this case the magpie invariably chooses a thick, bushy, and very thorny spot. The black and white plumage and long tail make him a very handsome pet. If allowed to run loose he needs to have one wing clipped, and this necessary precaution usually means a broken and ragged tail. Consequently the better plan is to keep him in a large aviary, with full use of his wings. Some of mine have become very good talkers and mimics. They have learned to laugh, whistle, kiss, and say several sentences. The barbarous habit of slitting the tongue to make them talk is still resorted to in the country. How such a cruel and senseless act can be supposed to achieve the object, is a mystery. Fortunately there are signs that the ignorant custom is dying out, as the rural and bucolic mind becomes more enilightened by education and Nature study.

To be continued.

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Visits to Members' Aviaries.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

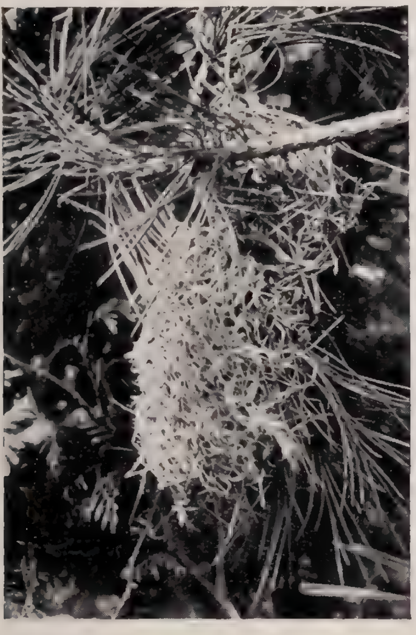
In October, 1914, I visited Alton, and viewed the Aviaries and birds at "The Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College," calling, on the return journey, on Mr. W. H. Fisher, at Farnham, and Mr. C. E. Croker, at Lower Bourne, for the purpose of seeing their aviaries and birds, and, I think, some account of what I saw will be of interest to our members.

The L.M.T.C.H. & C. Aviaries and Birds: I need say but little about these aviaries as they have been already figured in "Bird Notes," but will merely recapitulate size—Finch Aviary: Flight 30ft. x 20ft., Shelter 30ft. x 10ft.; Parrakeet Aviary: Flight 20ft. x 20ft., Shelter 20ft. x 10ft.—and state that in the Finch Aviary natural cover is abundant and the arrangement very picturesque. In the Parrakeet Aviary the ground area of flight is turfed, and there are an abundance of tree trunks, branches, etc.. The occupants of both aviaries were in a very fit and flourishing condition.

The Finch Aviary contained, roughly, the following species :—

Californian Quails.
Grey-winged Ouzel.
Cutthroats.
Ruficaudas.
White Java Sparrows.
Yellow-rumped Serins.
Bronze Mannikins.
Pekin Robins.
Red-billed Weavers.
Napoleon Weavers.
Combasous.
Bengalese.
Silverbills.
Pied Wagtail.
Goldfinches.
Zebra Finches.
Gouldian Finches.
Spice Finches.
Grey Singingfinches.
Green Singingfinches.
Orange-cheeked Waxbills.
Grey Waxbills.
Gold-breasted Waxbills.
Avadavats.
Grey Java Sparrows.
Reed Buntings.
Yellow Buntings.
Hedge Accentors.
Canaries.

Of the above, the following duly nested, hatched out, and fully reared their young: Greenfinches (2), Red-billed Weavers (2), Silverbills (2), Zebra Finches (4), Cutthroats (1).


Nest of Red-billed Weaver, taken after emergence of young.

The following nested and hatched out young but did not rear them: Ruficauda Finches, Pekin Robins, and Yellow Buntings.

The following were incubating at the time of my visit: Gold-breasted Waxbills, Cutthroats, and Zebra Finches.

Those that nested and laid clutches of eggs which they did not hatch out were: Californian Quail, Pekin Robins, Zebra Finches, Yellow Buntings, Yellow-rumped Serins, Grey and Gold-breasted Waxbills.

In the Parrakeet Aviary were gathered the following species :—

Budgerigars (a flock).
Black-cheeked Lovebirds.
Red-rump Parrakeets.
Rosella.
Madagascar Lovebirds.
Black-faced Conure.
Cactus Conure.
Cockateels.
Greenfinches.
Grey Java Sparrow.
Saffron Finches.
Senegal Dove.
Canaries
Linnets.
Redpolls.
Chaffinches:
Goldfinches.
Bullfinches.
And other British and pugnacious Foreign Finches.

In this aviary only the Budgerigars have been really prolific breeders, and of these the young were very numerous, and five pairs were either incubating or feeding young at the time of my visit. The Red-rump Parrakeets and Cockateels, though all grand birds, had got no further than log inspection. The Black-checked Lovebirds, after numerous failures, finally reared two young birds. A male Madagascar Lovebird has paired up with an odd Black-cheek, but up to the present have got no further than eggs.

All the stock gave evidence of being well looked after.

The Trustees of the Institution would appreciate the gift of a hen Gouldian Finch, and also any other birds, either Parrakeet- or Finch-tribe, odd birds or pairs.

MR. W. H. FISHER'S AVIARIES AND BIRDS : Mr. Fisher has a series of aviaries, running longitudinally, down his garden, of the lean-to type; most of them are entirely roofed in, but to some there are extended open flights, which break up the line in a pleasing manner. The birds all looked very fit, but, though there was no natural growth in the aviaries, the fittings were pleasingly arranged, and it was quite evident that the occupants were enjoying life.

I shall simply make a few remarks on the birds in the order in which I passed the aviaries, and each of the following paragraphs may be taken as referring to a separate enclosure.

A small slip, containing a small crowd of Orange-cheek, Grey and St. Helena Waxbills, and Avadavats. All in perfect plumage.

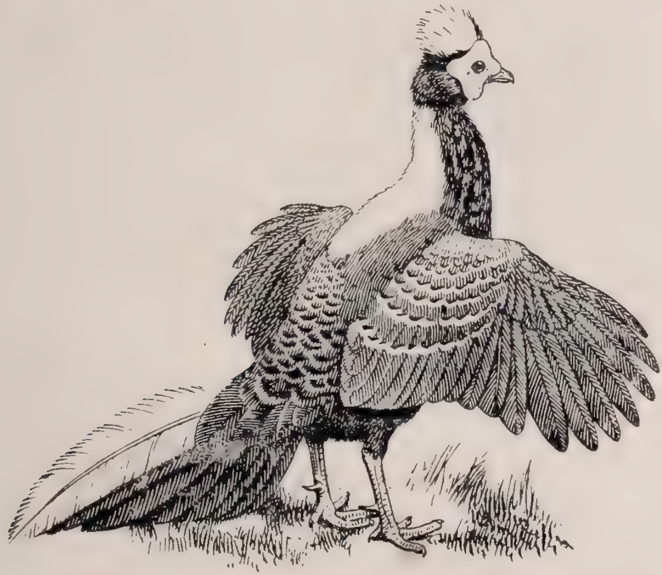
A fairly large enclosure (35 ft. x 6ft. x 6 ft.), which contained a numerous and varied crowd, all in the pink of condition. The birds in this aviary, Mr. Fisher informed me, breed fairly freely. Varied as the series was, they certainly appeared to live together in amity. I noted the following species:

Flock of Greend Budgerigars.
Flock of Yellow Budgerigars.
Red-rump Parrakeets.
Madagascar Lovebirds.
Cockateels.
Moustache Parrakeet.
Barbary Doves.
Californian Quail.
Greenfinches.
Madagascar Weavers.
Saffron Finches.
Cutthroats.
Java Sparrows.
Chaffinches.
Red-crested Cardinal.
Hybrid Amherst Pheasant.

However unorthodox such a mixture may be, they certainly made a very pleasing spectacle as they disported themselves within the precincts of their enclosure.

The next aviary contained Amherst Pheasants and Barbary Doves, the former being in grand plumage.

In the next were gathered a cock Reeve's Pheasant and several Common Pheasants—the resulting hybrids of this cross take the Reeve's form, but are not so brilliant in plumage as *Phasianus colchicus*.



From life by H. Goodchild.

Swinhoe's Pheasant *(Euplocamus swinhoii)* in courting attitude.

Passing on, we came to a gorgeous company of Gold Pheasants and some very fine Blue Fantail Pigeons.

The next enclosure was given up to Silver Pheasants.

The next contained a gorgeous Swinhoe's Pheasant, some young Gold Pheasants and more Barbary Doves.

The next contained some White Pheasants, I did not recognise the species, but they had somewhat the form of Ptarmigan, and some fine Black Fantails.

The last compartment contained a fine young Peregrine.

In conclusion I must give expression to the pleasure and interest my short stay with Mr. Fisher gave me.

To be continued.

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Birds of the Jhelum District and an Ornithological Diary from the Punjab.

By H. Whistler, I.P., M.B.O.U.

Continued from page 47.

Page 307, (last Vol.) line 7 from bottom of page: for "Conures" read Coursers.

Page 308, line 20: for "*stentorcus*" read *stentoreus.*

Page 309, line 2: for "smaller" read Smaller.

Page 310, line 34: for "Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*)" read Spotted Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*).

Page 339, line 5 from bottom, for "*malcolin*" read *malcolmi.*

Page 341, line 25, for "*malcolini*" read *malcolmi.*

October 1.—A Pied Crested Cuckoo (*Coccystes jacobinus*) heard for the last time this season.

A Pallas' Sea Eagle (*Haliaetus leucocoryphus*) found at Rajpura jheel, a Bluethroat and some Grey Quail (*Coturnix communis*) noted.

October 3.—A Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) noted in a tree by the house. Some Full Snipe (*Gallinula caelestis*) were flushed by a shooting party to-day at Sirsa—the first that I have heard of this season, but the district is a bad one for Snipe. A male Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*) seen.

October 5.—A Kite (*Milvus govinda*) seen carrying a stick, but it is hardly likely that it could be thinking seriously of nesting.

October 7.—Several Brown Rock-Pipits (*Anthus similis*) were about the Bir in small parties, feeding amongst the grass and perching on bushes. Several Grey Quail about. A Red-breasted Flycatcher noted.

October 8.—Whilst out Hawking in the morning I was much amused by the courage and dash of a Lugger Falcon (*Falco jugger*) which was apparently under the impression that we were poaching. Not only did it stoop very close at a Peregrine on the list, but it made two such vicious stoops at a Hooded Peregrine that was placed on the ground that we had to run to its rescue. After that the wild bird, with its consort made off, mounting most gracefully in the air.

An Eastern Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia jerdoni*) met with. A Wryneck (*Iynx torquilla*) noted feeding on the ground in company with a Hoopoe. Some Tawny Pipits (*Anthus campestris*) about.

The Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) which was noted last month as being so conspicuous with broods of young everywhere has now almost entirely disappeared.

The Yellow-throated Sparrows (*Gymnorhis flavicollis*) have for the most part also gone, only a few birds being now to be found in place of the numbers that were here in the hot weather.

October 9.—Visited Rajpura jheel where there proved to be a small flock of White-eyed Pochards (*Nyroca ferruginea*), as well as a number of Waterhens and perhaps Coots. A Full Snipe was also flushed there. A Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) seen.

October 10.—Spent the morning out in the Bir, where I saw numbers of Harriers; they have been numerous throughout the month on passage and are mostly Pale Harriers (*Circus macrurus*), both adult males in the handsome pale grey plumage with black wing tips, and females and young in the "Ringtail" dress. Wherever there is land sufficiently damp to produce small frogs, one meets also with the Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*). All these Harriers fly with a graceful easy stroke, quartering the ground, but specimens of the Pale Harrier are not very easy to obtain in spite of their abundance, as they are careful to keep out of gunshot, except when attracted by trained Hawks; they then come up and fly round to see what the trained Hawk is doing and so afford easy chances. The Marsh Harrier on the other hand is not at all shy.

Many Wheatears about, mostly *Saxicola opistholeuca*.

October 11.—In the early morning I saw a flock of some five and and twenty Cranes flying in the sky in V formation. These are the first I have met with personally this season, but I am told that there have been a number about in the canal areas for the last week or two.

A few Common Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) and some Sand Martins (*Cotile* sp. ?)—both the first I have seen here.

Some four or five Hawks were seen flying separately high in the air, all following the same line, namely, due south; they were apparently Common Kestrels (*Tinnunculus alaudarius*) on migration. Several Black Ibis seen.

A nest with naked young of *Franklinia buchanani* found in a low thorn bush, about 1½ feet from the ground.

October 12.—Moved to Sirsa in the north-western portion of Hissar District, which is now to be my headquarters. Sirsa was formerly the headquarters of a separate district of that name, and will be remembered as the part of the Punjab where Mr. Hume did so much collecting.

In my bungalow at Sirsa I found a Little Brown Dove (*Turtur cambaiensis*) sitting on two incubated eggs in a nest placed on a rolled-up chick in the verandah. A young bird flew from this nest on the 29th of the month. A pair of Magpie Robins (*Copsychus saularis*) are also haunting the bungalow.

The White Ibis (*Ibis melanocephalus*) is now common about Sirsa.

October 14.—Several Tawny Pipits (*Anthus campestris*) met with. Small parties were to be found during the remainder of the month. At the carcase of a Pariah dog which I had shot I noticed a King Vulture (*Otogyps calvus*), a White-backed Vulture (*Pseudogyps bengalensis*) and an Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*).

October 15.—Three Black-winged Kites (*Elanus caeruleus*) were noticed hovering and flying about near the Bungalow, and my men found that a pair of them had a nest close by.

A party of a dozen odd Wood Sandpipers (*Totanus glareola*) found feeding in a ploughed field, which had been flooded by heavy rain in the night.

A Raven noted, and an occasional single bird or pair noted on various dates during the next few weeks.

October 16.—In the early morning my Falconer, and orderly, and myself went out to a bare stretch of ground near the house to exercise various trained Peregrines and Barbary Falcons. During the operations of flying and feeding the Falcons we were much hampered by several Kites (*Milvus govinda*) which would soar over our heads and give chase to the Falcons, making themselves such a nuisance in general that I had to send for a gun and shoot at a couple of them. A fine wild adult Peregrine Falcon, and an immature Lugger Falcon (*Falco jugger*) came up, attracted by our proceedings, and a Ringtail Harrier, perhaps *Circus macrurus*, and another bird apparently *Buteo ferox* passed by close. A Red-headed Merlin also dashed across our field of operations, and in some trees near by there was a Shikra Hawk (*Astur badius*).

After finishing with the Falcons, I walked to a neighbouring tree, where the pair of Black-winged Kites (*Elanus caeruleus*) were nesting, and passed on the way a fine King Vulture (*Otogyps calvus*) and an Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) busily engaged with a dead dog.

The Kite's nest was situated on the end of a horizontal bough of a Kikur tree, standing alone in cultivation; the nest, which was about 20 feet from the ground, was a mere mass of large pieces of an evergreen shrub-like plant, which is common on this sandy soil. This straggling mass of material was heaped in a most careless fashion on the bough, and roughly hollowed to form a nest, but in spite of the mass of material one could see through the bottom of the nest, which was quite unlined, and it is difficult to see why the eggs did not fall through. The whole nest gave one more the impression of an armful of stuff weeded out by a Zaminda and flung up into the bough to be out of the way, than the nest of a Raptor.

There were three well-feathered young birds standing in the nest, and they violently objected to the intrusion---what time the adult kept stooping at my head—keeping up a harsh screaming, and throwing themselves on their backs to resist with beak and claw. Two of these I took for the purpose of rearing as pets.

When I add that before we started out my Falcon had unsuccessfully tried to net an adult tiercel Peregrine, and that after our return a pair of Eagles were soaring above my bungalow, I think the whole affords a good example of the wonderful abundance of Raptorial birds in these parts.

Two incubated eggs in a nest of the Indian Ring Dove (*Turtur risorius*).

October 17. -Two flocks of Sociable Lapwings (*Cheltusia gregaria*) passed over near my bungalow in the early morning; these were the first noted this winter; the species is a fairly abundant winter visitor to these parts, and is found in flocks which feed on waste land, or on the fields; it is very partial to a light sandy soil and seldom frequents water.

On a flooded field three Little Ring Plovers (*Ægialitis dubia*) were feeding in company with a large number of Wagtails of the White and Yellow types.

Two Pale Brown Shrikes (*Lanius isabellinus*) were the first seen this winter. Two Blue-throats, Two Sand Martins (*Cotile* sp. ?), and a Honey Buzzard (*Pernis cristatus*) seen.

October 19.—When out hawking in the early morning I lost a beautiful little Barbary Falcon (*Falco barbarus*) in a manner that forms an admirable illustration of one of the great difficulties that the Falconer has to contend with in these parts. The Falcon was taken out to her maiden flight at a wild quarry, and finding a pair of Grey Partridges in a thorn bush, my Falconer cast off the Falcon, which waited on and stooped at the second Partridge as it rose. The Partridge managed to reach a bush, and the Falcon threw up into the air to be ready again when a pair of Eagles and a Kite or two promptly gave chase to her, and just as she succeeded in shaking them off a pair of Lugger Falcons took up the pursuit, and buffeting her well drove her clean out of sight. We searched hard for the next day or two but never saw the bird again.

Two Kestrels, a Blue-throat and some Short-toed Larks (*Calandrella* sp.?) noted; also the first White-eyes (*Zosterops palpebrosa*) of the season.

October 20.—Since my arrival in Hissar district I have been much puzzled as to the identity of a large Eagle—grey and brown and white in colour, with a very massive head—which is fairly common in these parts, although new to me. To-day I shot one and found that it was the Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*). Its stomach contained a lizard and some grasshoppers.

Other Birds of Prey met with were a Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), a Kestrel, and a Barbary (*Falco barbarus*).

A couple of Koels (*Eudynamis honorata*) have been haunting my compound up till to-day, when the male was seen for the last time; the majority had, however, departed some time ago.

It was quite an event to see a flight of Little Green Bee-eaters (*Merops viridis*), for that species also has left to winter further south.

(*To be Continued*).

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Book Notices and Reviews.

A SYSTEM OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, By various writers, edited by E. Wallis Hoare, F.R.C.V.S. In two vols., £2 2s. 0d., Vol. II. now ready, £1 1s. net. London: Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

In "Bird Notes," Vol. I., N.S., we reviewed Vol. I. of the above important work, which dealt with the microbial diseases, and we then noted that though a work of this character must contain much that was purely technical, the various articles were both scientific and practical (if these two terms can be properly separated), and that it should prove of great assistance to aviculturists. These remarks are equally applicable to Vol. II., which covers the General Diseases of Animals, that is the medical or internal diseases other than the contagious or or microbial diseases, which were dealt with in Vol. I.

We quote one or two extracts from the preface as follows: "Avian diseases have received attention as far as space would permit, "and, owing to the increased importance of this subject in the present "day, the sections devoted to the common maladies of birds and their "treatment should prove of value. . . . ."

"Mr. Henry Gray, M.R.C.V.S., has written special articles "on important affections in the dog and cat, and has also read the proof "sheets of the various sections on canine., feline, and avian diseases, "and suggested many valuable additions."

To this we may add that the two volumes contain the best account of the diseases of birds yet written, and though this review *or notice* is written solely of this section, it applies with even greater force to the other sections.

The thoughtful aviculturist (this applies equally to every section of animal life) will gain much practical instruction from a careful study of the articles on the diseases of birds, and the result will be a lessening of the death-rate and the saving of needless suffering to many captive birds.

We cordially commend this work to our readers, and, while mainly written for veterinary surgeons, it should appeal strongly to medical men, aviculturists, pisciculturists, dog and poultry keepers, country gentlemen, and the owners of cattle, sheep, and horses. This, the final vol., deals with the General Diseases of Animals.

BIRDS OF THE INDIAN HILLS. By Douglas Dewar, I.C.S., London. J Lane, The Bodley Head. Cloth, Large Post 8vo., 6s. net.

We gave a brief notice of this interesting book in December "B.N." and much regret that a full review must be held over till next issue.

◆

Correspondence.

OBTAINING AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

Sir.—My friend in N.S. Wales who sends me birds; at times he also sends me some very interesting letters and the following is an extract from one I received last week:

"Just to show you how difficult it is for we fanciers to "get birds, although there are plenty to be got, I relate the following:

"I spent last evening with three young men, sons of an old "farmer at Wagga Wagga, which is in the 'Riverina' district.

"I know the family well, they have come to Sydney for a holiday "after harvesting over. They were down three years ago, and promised "to send me some Parrots. I went to much trouble in explaining how "to catch them. The district is teeming with many varieties, they sent me none, say they cannot catch them. I showed it would pay them well during the slack season, but these 'way-backs' seem to have no brains for other than farming, and that, they make a success of.

"I believe they tried hard to bring some down with them—say they shot about fifteen Green-Leeks dead before they could wound one for a brace bird, they only trapped one cock, which bit him, and the fool let it go.

"The season has been very dry and all Parrots come on to haystacks, and wheatfields for food. Cockatoos and Galahs in flocks of five and six thousands. Red-rumps and Common Rosellas in great flocks; numbers of Blue-bonnets, Bulla Bullas, Quarrians, and Yellow-rumps, but not so many Green-Leeks, a few Kings and some other kinds, but I could not make them out, remember these fellows don't know them by their proper names, but have some local ones of their own. They tell me the haystacks and stock-yards are covered with Parrots, and when you go near they rise in great flocks. Cockatoos and Galahs keep more in the wheatfields, although sometimes they tackle a haystack and pull it to pieces, you must understand these stacks are away and in the open, and uncovered, being cut into chaff before the rainy season comes on.

"Two of these brothers have a farm eighteen miles away from the homestead, work there all the week and go home on the Saturday afternoon. Two weeks ago they left a wagon load of wheat in the field; when they returned on Monday, the Cockatoos and Galahs had ripped open nearly every sack and the wheels of the wagon were half-way up in wheat, and Parrots of all kinds were having a good time. Yet these fellows couldn't catch me any!

"If I could get away for a couple of weeks, would have some of them, if through the war, things get slack will try and get."

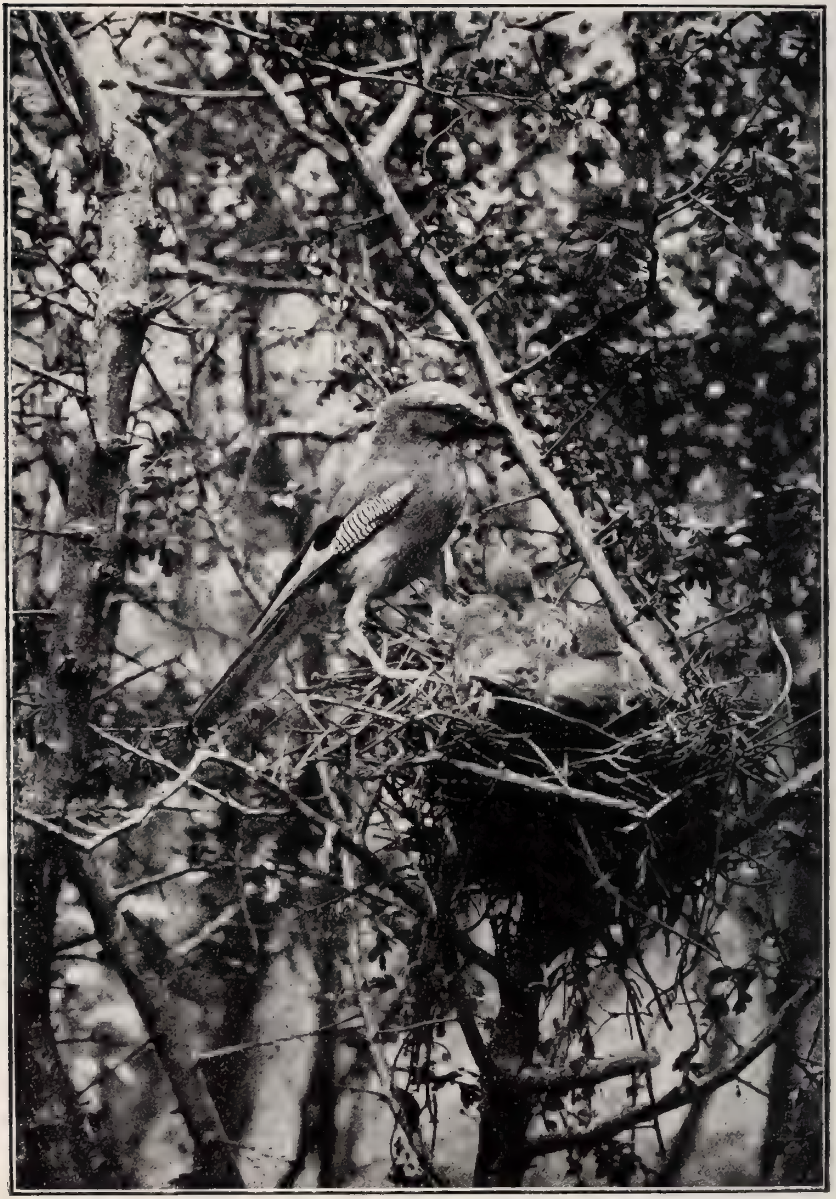
I have copied it word for word as sent me (we also have put through without revision.—Ed.) I hope it may prove of some interest.

Sheffield, 1/3/'15. R. COLTON.

Green Leek=Barraband's Parrakeet (*Polytelis barrabandi*).
Galah=Roseate Cockatoo (*Cacatua roseicapilla*).
Bulla Bulla=Barnard's Parrakeet (*Barnardius barnardi*).
Quarrian=Cockateel (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*).

Editorial.

See page 27 of Inset (Pink Paper).



AVIAN PRESS PROCESS.

Photo by H. Willford.

Common Jay.

All Rights Reserved. April, 1915.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

British Corvidae.

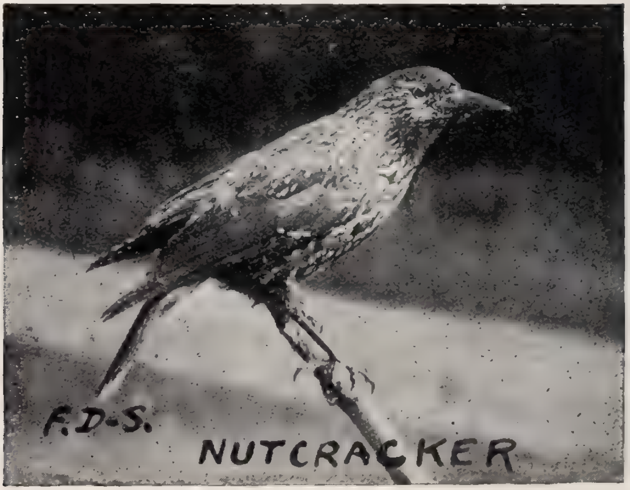
By Frank Dawson-Smith.

(Concluded from page 70).

The Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*): This well-known and beautiful denizen of woodland districts is an object of hatred and persecution by gamekeepers. The nest usually is found in the middle of a wood and situated among the thinner branches of a large bush or small tree. The Jay is particularly fond of eggs, and sucks all it can obtain in the woods. In captivity it much appreciates hard-boiled eggs, and also the remains of insect food left over from the dishes of insectivorous birds. The Jay combines beauty of plumage with intelligence, and is, therefore, a favourite among students of this group. The bird shows to great advantage in an aviary, with its blue wings and shades of rich brown and white in its plumage.

It may confidently be recommended to anybody in search of an easily-kept and attractive pet.

The Chough (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*): This species is difficult to obtain. Formerly it frequented the cliffs on the south coast in large numbers, but now only a limited number remain in isolated districts. In the Isle of Man and the west of Ireland, however, it is by no means uncommon, especially in the latter region. Very few are to be discovered breeding in the Cornish Cliffs now. The Cornish Chough is very useful as a show bird. He is very handsome, indeed, with his plumage of brilliant black, and his legs and curved beak of bright red. There is also the Alpine Chough, whose slender claim to be a British bird rests on the fact that a specimen was once shot at Banbury! It had probably escaped from confinement, and paid for its stolen liberty with its life. This bird is distinguished from its Cornish *confrère* by having a yellow bill. As its name denotes, it is an inhabitant of the Alpine districts. It is common in the Tyrol, from which locality I obtained my specimens. Choughs should be fed as Jays, and are equally interesting.



The Nutcracker Crow (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*). A very rare British visitor. Although rarely seen in a state of nature in these isles, it is common in the pine forests

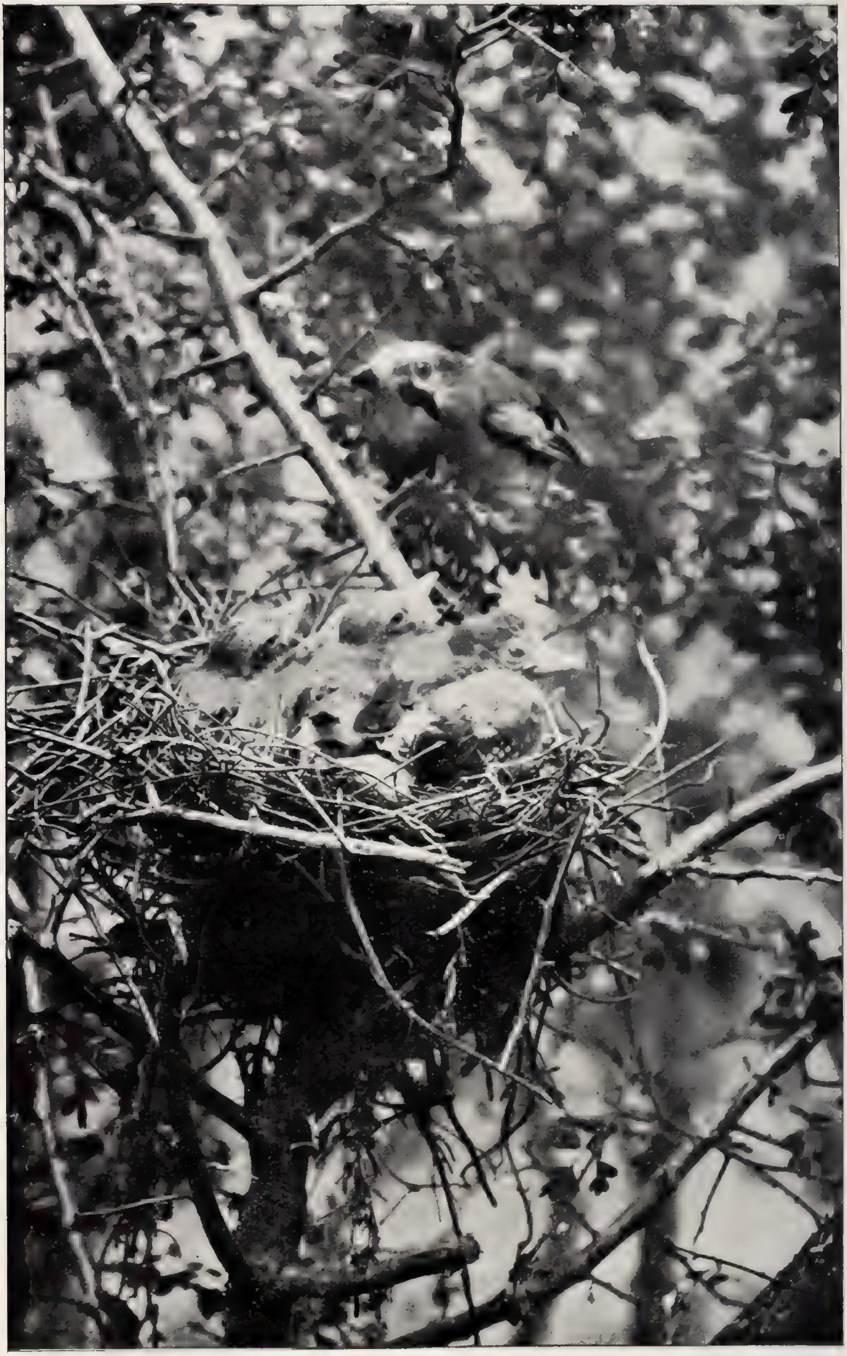


Photo by H. Willford.

Common Jay creeping through the branches to nest.

in the Tyrol and parts of Switzerland. In its habits it somewhat resembles the Jay. It is beautifully marked and spotted. Four were sent to me from the Tyrol, and, although old-caught, soon became tame and confiding. They were easy enough to cater for. They really cared only for cooked meat, which they preferred to pick off a bone, and any kind of nut (walnuts for choice, as these were easy for them to break). They wedged them into any crevice they could find, and speedily split the shells with a few sharp taps with their beaks. I always cracked the shells of the harder nuts, such as filberts, cocoanuts, &c. I have heard it stated that the Nutcracker cannot crack nuts, but if this sweeping statement includes walnuts it is wrong, without a doubt. These birds love walnuts and have no difficulty in breaking them.

FINAL NOTES : All the birds I have described in this article make ideal pets, with marvellous intelligence. They soon learn to know their attendant and keep their special traits and mannerisms for that person. They welcome him with special attention, amusing and interesting him by their wonderful powers of mimicry of other birds, animals, and womenkind, and give abundant proofs of affection in return for any labour or time bestowed upon them. It must be borne in mind by anyone desirous of rearing any of them by hand from the nest, that regularity in feeding is a *sine quâ non*. A *little* food given frequently, at strictly stated intervals, is far better than stuffing them at longer periods. I owe my personal success in rearing them by hand to this rule. I begin at daybreak, and feed every two hours, increasing the interval at the end of a week, until they have learned to pick up for themselves. They object to do this, and much prefer the personal attention, but I circumvent these sly tricks by leaving the dish of food on the floor of their aviary, and the cunning rogues fall into the snare, and thinking they are quite unobserved, proceed to pick up. But they desist the moment I show myself and will drop what they have in the beak and clamour to be fed as of old.

In every case it is vitally important that the birds are kept supplied with clean water in a large shallow pan, as they are all fond of bathing. They will splash about till they are soaked and then sit in the sun to dry. The moment this is *nearly* accomplished, in they go again for another bath!

Cleanliness in the aviary also, is a rule to be maintained if you wish for strong, healthy birds. I have kept many varieties of birds, but I think my choice for pets lies among the Crow tribe. I give below a list of food required by the different varieties I have mentioned.

Raven: Staple food, *meat*, raw and cooked, table scraps, cheese, soaked puppy biscuits.

Carrion Crow : Staple food, *meat*, raw, and table scraps.

Hooded Crow : Meat, raw and cooked, rats, and table scraps.

Rook : Table scraps, puppy biscuits, cheese, milk sop.

Jackdaw : The same as the Rook.

Magpie : Meat, raw and cooked, puppy biscuits, pastry, etc.

Jay : Chopped hard-boiled eggs, insect food, milk sop.

Chough : The same as Jays.

Nutcracker : Meaty mutton bone (cooked), nuts.

For rearing from the nest, I gave only bread and milk and toppings, until the birds were old enough to pick up and digest the stronger food.

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Birds In and About the Station (Bakloh, Punjab).

BY MAJOR G. A. PERREAU, F.Z.S.

(Continued from Vol. V., N.S., page 264).

FLYCATCHERS: The Verditer Flycatcher (*Stoparola melanops*) is a lovely little bird, well known to English aviculturists, as it is fairly commonly imported, for an insectivorous bird. It is one of the easiest of the Flycatchers to keep. My friend (Mr. N. F. Cockell) had young hatch in his Calcutta aviary but I forgot to ask him details as to the nest. It is very common a little higher up in the hot weather, breeding from 6,000 to 9,000 feet, generally in a hole in the bank on the khud side of a road, sometimes only a few feet up. I have known of nests in the eaves of houses. The eggs are pinky white, four to the clutch. One lot I saw had a beautiful smoky pink ring near the big end. I was tempted to take them, and might just as well have done so as a big storm a few days afterwards brought down the bank the nest was in.

They are fairly common here, passing through in the autumn and spring. I have not had it in the aviary and, as I am now keeping a few Himalayan birds, I much regret not having kept some of the beauties I caught in July this year. It takes readily to cage life and rather to my astonishment I found it very easy to meat off. This year they came down exceptionally early, mid June, and also left early. A very large percentage of our autumn birds are young, and this makes the getting of pairs a matter of some difficulty and I do like keeping birds in pairs, even though they may fight a bit, as do my Blue Chats at present.

General colour, bright verditer-blue, brightest on the forehead, throat, breast, and upper tail-coverts, with a little black about the face, and the under tail-coverts margined with white. The hen is a bit duller and has brown instead of black on the face, but it is not easy to sex a solitary bird. Length about six inches.

The White-Gorgetted Flycatchers (*Anthipes*) are not found here but I got two in Darjiling and found them take well to cage-life, nice birds but not gaudy.

The Brown Flycatcher (*Alseonax latirostris*) I have seen here in the spring. It calls for no remark as the name suits it, though it is whitish underneath, distinctly a " Sparrow-bird." Length about 5 inches.

The Grey-headed Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) appears to me to be unfortunately named. It is grey-headed, it is found in Ceylon, and it may catch other and more noxious insects than flies, though I doubt it. It has a very wide distribution and deserves a better name for its colouring, which is grey above and bright yellow underneath. As a matter of fact, there is a certain amount of yellow on the wings, tail, and back, and the breast and throat are grey. Non-bird friends are not given to text-book descriptions and with striking looking birds like this a very brief (and perhaps not strictly accurate) description is easier to identify from than a rambling detailed account, with probably inaccurate details. With this bird I generally ascertain that it dashes into the air after small flies, returning to somewhere about the same perch, that it is about the size of a Wren, but not so fat, and that it has not a fan-like tail, and then, identification is simple.

I find size is a great stumbling block in descriptions, but this bird, though 5 inches in length, really looks much smaller owing to its slim build and comparatively long tail of 2.2 inches.

This charming and lively little bird passes through the Station in early spring and late autumn, breeding in May and June at 6,000 to 8,000 feet, where it is common in the summe. The nest is of moss placed against a trunk or rock, usually the latter. The clutch is three to four. I caught a beauty the other day, late October, and showed it to a friend, who has apparently imbibed a bit more bird lore than he owns to, as he described it as one of "those hairy-nosed chaps," and foresaw trouble in keeping it. The longer and the more numerous the bristles over the nostrils the more addicted is the bird to catching its prey on the wing and the harder it is in consequence to meat off. I did not see my way to the time required, and so let this bird go. I had one once before but it hardly had a fair chance and did not survive long. I hope to try it again in more settled times.

THE RUFOUS-BELLIED NILTAVA (*Niltava sundara*) is well known at home as a lovely bird. Oates gives its range on the Himalayas as from Assam to Simla. We are a bit north west of Simla and it is very rare here, so I was surprised to see that Mr. Whistler had found it numerous in the Murree hills, a good bit still further north-west. I hardly like to suggest that so keen an observer can be confounding this bird with the Indian Blue Chat (*Larvivora brunnea*) if it were not for the fact that a very keen bird observer and oologist here, who has done a lot of egg-collecting with Major Buchanan at Changla Gali (Murree Hills), made this mistake. Mr. Whistler's description would apply to either, even as to the nest. My experience of the Blue Chat's nest does not tally with Oates' description, and in some points it seems to me to apply more to the Blue Chat. The young of both on leaving the nest are speckled; here again my experience does not tally with that of Oates', as regards the Blue Chat. The Blue Chat is a "dark bird with rufous underparts" with a conspicuous white eye-stripe certainly, but the glistening blue patches of the Niltava (except perhaps when seen from below) render it a gorgeous bird in the heaviest jungle. The Blue Chat is more of a ground bird and is a very low percher even when alarmed; the Niltava is more of a low bush bird and does not hesitate to fly up to a highish perch if disturbed. I know both birds well in freedom and in the cage and aviary. I have not found the eggs of either but have seen a fair number of nests with young of both. I own up to putting down my first Blue Chat seen as a Niltava, and when caught, a nice bit of trouble I had to identify him. I am better up now in my " Fauna of Indian Birds " than I was, and did at that time expect to find my bird near the Robins or Chats, after seeing it was not a Flycatcher. I think the Niltavas are rather aberrant Flycatchers. Both are vertically migratory but neither according to my experience go right down to the plains. At Madhopur, Punjab, I expected but did not find the Blue Chat. Young Niltavas are very Robin-like even close at hand. All the same I expect Mr. Whistler knows his own birds and will forgive me writing the above whether he is right or no in his identification; the fact that he has only seen the bird in the breeding season, probably not quite close, made me bolder in questioning his identification. I had hoped shortly to make his acquaintance after deriving much pleasure from his articles, as we were under orders for Jhelum, but now we are just off to Kohat and it is more than likely he is transferred if the " general post " hits his Service.

I caught a hen Niltava in June, 1907, at Kajiar, 6,000 feet, and this April I caught a magnificent cock in my compound, which is a veritable bird of paradise. I kept him for a bit, hoping to get a hen and then let him go and he stayed close at hand for some time. This bird was very common at Darjiling and I got to know it well for such a retired-haunt-loving bird, for they are not really shy. This and the Large Niltava (not so common a bird there) both had young in the nest late in August. I fancy our birds like others of their sort would have finished up their family worries by the end of June. It takes well to captivity and I hope some time to try a pair in my aviaries, as potential breeders. Banks are not too easy to arrange and most of our nicest birds breed in banks, and small wonder seeing that most of the country is bank; in my own compound my aviaries occupy pretty well all the available flat space and that is not much. General colour, throat and upper parts, black with bright glistening blue on the top of the head, wing-coverts, rump, upper tail-coverts and outer webs of the tail; a spot on each side of the neck bright blue; underparts chestnut. The hen is of varying shades of brown with a patch of white on the fore-neck and a brilliant Niltava patch of light blue on each side of the neck. Size about 6.5 inches.

(*To be continued*).

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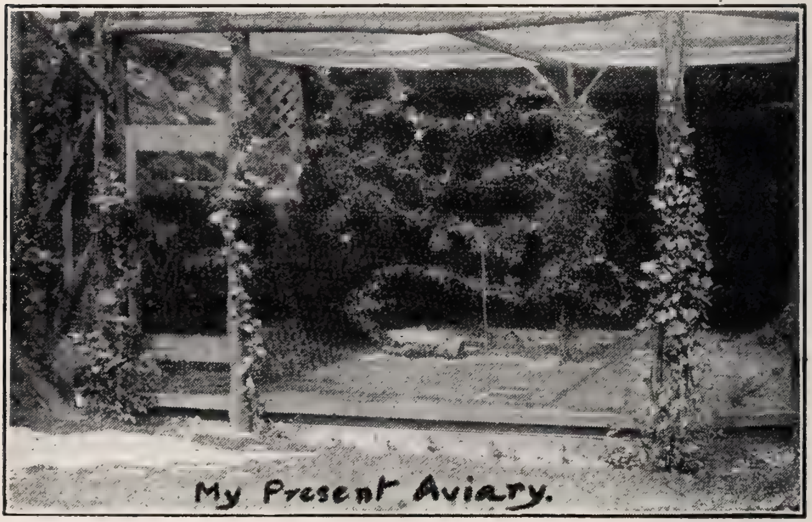
My Present and Past Aviaries.

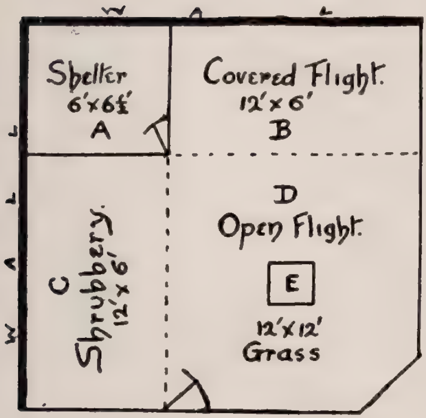
By J. W. Marsden.

I will commence with the "present," and simply indicate the past by one or two photographs and rough list of the aviaries and birds I possessed when residing at Leeds.

My Present Finch Aviary: I am now residing at Harrogate and have at present two aviaries, one given up to Budgerigars and the other to Finches; the latter contains various Finches and Waxbills.


My Present Aviary.

This aviary answers well, but it has one fault, the shelter is too small; nevertheless it is a very useful aviary



and not unpleasing in appearance. As will be seen from the ground plan, it is well sheltered, being placed in the angle of two walls, the entire ground area is 18ft. x 18½ft. On the ground plan " A " is the shelter 6ft x 6½ft.; " B " the covered-flight 12ft. x 6ft.; " C " is a shrubbery 12ft. x 6ft.; " C—D " forms the open flight, the " D " portion of which is turfed, with the bath at " E."

Its occupants are: Common Waxbills and Mannikins. My chief aim is to breed hybrids, and also to test their fertility, but up to the present my success in this direction has been nil.

Last spring I procured two male and one female Zebra Finches, a pair of which I put into the aviary; the odd cock was put into a cage (30in. x 30in x 50in. high) and given a hen Ribbon Finch for a mate. They paired at once, built a nest and three eggs were deposited therein, which were incubated for three weeks. As no chicks appeared I examined the eggs and found them all infertile, so I turned them into the aviary. This was a mistake on my part, as the Zebra Finch promptly forsook the Ribbon Finch and persecuted the hen Zebra Finch already there with a mate of her own species; so to level up matters I procured another hen and both pairs went to nest at once. They successfully brought up a brood each, of three and four respectively (2 ♂ and 5 ♀), all of which reached maturity. A pair of Bib Finches successfully reared two young, and a pair of Striated Finches had similar good fortune. My Californian Quail only fully reared two.

The following all made attempts at reproducing their kind:

Orange-cheeked Waxbills nested and laid three eggs, but all were infertile.

A St. Helena Waxbill paired up with a Grey, and a good nest was built, but, I never saw any eggs.

Pairs of Cordon Bleus and Firefinches built good nests, but I never saw any eggs. In 1913 the Firefinches successfully reared two young.

A Silverbill chose a Bengalese for a wife, a nest was built and a clutch of three eggs deposited therein, which did not hatch out; and there was no better result from the union of a Sharp-tailed Finch with a Bengalese.

An odd Crimson-wing Waxbill (Aurora Finch), which I never saw pair with anything, constructed a nest and deposited four eggs therein, incubating them for the full period; of course, her labour was wasted.

A pair of Cape Doves have as yet made no attempt to nest.

The back of the shed is filled with brushwood and hay: the Black-headed, Tricolour and Bronze Mannikins, and Spice Finches all appeared to be nesting therein, but what nests there were, were inaccessible; however, at the autumn clearing up I found a lot of nests and eggs.

THE BUDGERIGAR AVIARY: This is but small (9 x 6 ft.), and my desire is, that it may ultimately contain some Blue Budgerigars. I have at present a Green hen with some blue-blood in her; she is paired to a Green cock and they are now (February 6th) feeding young; but I hope yet to get a Blue cock to mate with her. I should say that the aviary is in a warm sheltered corner though it faces north.

To be continued.

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Visits to Members' Aviaries.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

(*Continued from page* 74).

MR. C. E. CROKER'S AVIARIES: My host is certainly not an adherent of orthodoxy, but consults his own pleasure and interest, and with local help has erected his various aviaries and pens, and has gathered around him an interesting variety of fur and feather. The creatures with which he has peopled his numerous enclosures certainly give no indications of unhappiness or lack of all they need, for a better-conditioned lot of birds there could not well be.

After quite a long and interesting gossip with Mr. Croker we proceeded to do the round of the aviaries.

The aviaries are not of the wilderness type, though one partially assumes that character owing to the growth of various creepers through the netting, but, most have earthen bases, no natural growth, with a shelter shed at back or side, and are plentifully furnished with branches, nest receptacles and food hoppers. In some the flights are in front, with the shelter at back, in others the shelters are at one end, but in each case the entire front or end of shelter is open to the flight. The aviaries stand on high ground and are very dry —the sub-soil being sand and chalk.

I will put numbers to the different enclosures, for the purposes of convenience.

No. 1.—This, together with No. 2 and 3 really forms one erection, a wire netting partition separates Nos. 1 and 3, and No. 2 is merely a slip of No. 1. No. 1 contained a sort of happy family as follows:—

Amherst Pheasants, Starling, Hawfinch, Homer Pigeons, English Squirrel, and a colony of Guinea Pigs!

No. 2 is given up to a very handsome and tame pair of the Large Canadian Grey Squirrel—similar to the species seen in our London Parks.

No. 3. This is the aviary proper, in which are gathered together a really large and varied series of Fringillidae and Ploceidae. The wire netting of one side of this aviary is covered with creepers on the outside, which grow through into the aviary, the internal standards are covered with ivy, and the netting partition dividing it from No. 1, is also creeper covered, and though there is no other growing plant life, the neatly sanded ground and a handsome pedestal bath give a really picturesque effect. The flight and shelter are both spacious, and the latter has its entire front open to the flight. The cover provided for perching and nesting accommodation consists of dense masses of pine branches and brushwood. I noted herein the following species:

Canaries.
Cutthroats.
Combasous.
Zebra Finches.
Gold-breasted Waxbills.
Orange-cheeked Waxbills.
Grey Waxbills.
Green Singingfinches.
Cape Doves.
Hawfinches.
Pintail Whydah.
Paradise Whydah.
Orange Weavers.
Red-billed Weavers.
Madagascar Weavers.
Napoleon Weavers.

Grey Singingfinches.
St. Helena Waxbills.
Cordon Bleu.
Saffron Finches.
Spice Finches.
Pied Java Sparrows.
Silverbills.
Magpie Mannikins.
Black-headed Mannikins.
Bronze Mannikins.
White-headed Mannikins.
Bengalese.
Redpoll.
Siskin.
Bramblefinch.
Linnet.
Russ' Weavers
Grey Java Sparrows.
Pekin Robins
Pope Cardinal.
Red-crested Cardinal.
Yellow Wagtail.
White Java Sparrows.
Chinese Buntings.
Reed Buntings.
Yellow Buntings.
Indigo Buntings.
Goldfinch.
Greenfinch.
Chaffinch
Twite.
Avadavats.

The above is not a full list, but will give some idea of this varied series, consisting of well over two hundred birds, and a pleasing spectacle they were too, whether viewed from within the aviary or without. Very many of them have reared young, and, though these visit-notes must always be more or less cramped by lack of space, I must quote one or two episodes related to me by my host. A Redpoll has occupied this aviary for four years, its moult was completed, and it was in full natural colour. Another most interesting episode was the successful rearing of two Chaffinches in the aviary. I was shown the nest from which they emerged; the nest still remained and only slightly damaged but was quite a rough construction, entirely lacking the beauty of the natural nest; the box in which it was built was embowered in the creeper above referred to. The adult birds were pointed out to me, also the young, but owing to Mr. Croker having kept no data, he is disqualified from receiving the Club Medal for this record. The only data I could gather from Mr. Croker and the attendant were: the parent birds were observed building, incubating, and feeding the young. No special dietary was supplied save the usual menu, and the birds only got the normal supply of mealworms. So far as the writer is aware this is the first instance of young Chaffinches being fully reared in captivity. From a recent letter received from Mr. Croker I gather that young Zebra Finches and Cutthroats left the nest in December last and that all are doing well.

No. 4. This is one of a series of aviaries running up one side of the garden, with a shelter at one end, the end of the shelter being entirely open to the flight. Its occupants were:

Barbary Turtle Doves.
Common Turtle Doves.
Partridges 1 ♂ and 2 ♀.
Hybrid Gold × Amherst Pheasants.

The Common Turtle Doves have reared young several times and have also crossed with the Barbary Turtle Dove, the hybrids of which have proved fertile among themselves and also when paired with either species.

No. 5. A similar aviary which housed:

Japanese Silkies, Golden Pheasants, Alpine Chough, and a very fine Jackdaw (pure white, but not pink eyes).

No. 6. A smaller enclosure given up to Silver Pheasants.

No. 7. A similar enclosure given up to a pair of Magpies. A truly grand pair of birds, which have nested on several occasions, and though fully twelve eggs have been laid, there has been no other result.

No. 8. Given up to a very fine Kestrel Hawk, which once escaped and remained away for over three weeks, eventually returning in a half starved condition.

No. 9. This is the Parrakeet Aviary, and contained a very handsome series of birds as follows:

Quaker Parrakeets.
Ring-necked Parrakeets.
Cockateels.
Rosella Parrakeets.
Passerine Parrakeets.
Blood-rump Parrakeets.
Budgerigars (a flock).
Madagascar Lovebirds.
Black-cheeked Lovebirds.
Patagonian Conure.
Californian Quail.

On a former visit I had the pleasure of seeing young Quaker Parrakeets in their interesting home of twigs, built on to the aviary front, the top of the nest, which was well covered in, projecting through the netting of the top of aviary. There were two broods of Quakers hatched during 1914, consisting of two Squabs on each occasion, and of these three were reared to maturity. Young Budgerigars were everywhere, and several Cockateels in nestling plumage were being fed by their parents.

No. 10. Given up to a very fine Raven, most certainly the finest specimen the writer has ever seen in captivity. Its plumage was perfect and very lustrous, not a feather out of place. It was very tame and uttered several words distinctly.

No. 11. An isolated enclosure of the summer-house type, given up to seven English Jays, all of which had been caught in the garden. All of them were in very smart plumage, but were rather shy and retiring, keeping mostly to the sheltered part of their enclosure while strangers were near.

In the conservatory were two cages: one containing a very fine specimen of Horsfield's Whistling Thrush (*Myiophoneus horsfieldi*), and the other a tame and talented Roseate Cockatoo.

If, as I said in my opening remarks, Mr. Croker does not follow orthodox methods, there is no lack of care, and I must spare a few lines in conclusion to explain how the lack of orthodoxy, in this instance, spells such excellent results. I gathered Mr. Croker's method is not really a fixed one, only partially so. In the early part of the day the regular menu is given, consisting of filling the hoppers with such seeds as Canary and white millet, and putting in a supply of a standard insectile mixture; then after lunch, another round is made, and seed mixtures, such as Linnet mixture, Goldfinch mixture, Sunflower seed, mealworms, etc., are distributed in the aviaries, also a sort of soft mixture from the table, *e.g.*, potato, and other vegetables and various scraps, cheese, cake etc., are mixed with the remains of the morning supply of insectile mixture. I also observed that during his peregrinations round his garden, Mr. Croker is in the habit of filling the capacious side pockets of his garden coat with such dainties as he has learned delight the palates of his feathered and furry pets, which are distributed during other rounds of the aviaries. It is not surprising, either that the birds, etc., do well, or that the appearance of Mr. Croker brings his pets expectantly into the picture.

(*To be continued*).

The Rearing of a Hybrid between the White-throated and Grey Finches *(Spermophila albigularis x S. grisea).*

By R. Suggitt.

This article is really a continuation of the article, "Nesting of the Grey Finch" in last issue (pages 65-7), and was written to appear as one article, but space exigencies did not permit.—Ed.

In 1914, not having a mate for the hen Grey Finch, I put her into a compartment containing a lot of unpaired birds, among them a cock White-throated Finch (*S. albigularis*).

About the middle of June I noticed that she had mated with the White-throat, and was anxious to commence nest-building. I transferred them to the division where the Greys had successfully reared their young one the previous summer. The hen immediately commenced to build in the exact spot where she had her nest the year before.

The construction of this nest occupied no less than 16 days, and, I fear it would never have been substantial enough to hold the eggs, if I had not supplied some short lengths of cotton yarn, which were built in with the other materials.

By the way I would not advise anyone to supply materials of this kind for nest building; it is quite dangerous. Fortunately no fatal accidents resulted from its use, but I had to rescue several small birds, which were fastened by their feet to branches with the cotton, and which would have certainly died without assistance.

Three eggs were laid in this nest, and incubation commenced with the second on July 8th. Two of them hatched on July 20th, the other being infertile.

The White-throated Finch proved to be a much better husband and father than the Grey Finch had been. He gave a good deal of assistance with the nest-building, he fed the hen frequently while she was sitting, and worked very hard for the youngsters when they were hatched.

On August 5th, at the age of sixteen days, one of the young ones left the nest, the other one unfortunately having died the day before.

The young hybrid was fed by its parents for a long time after it could provide for itself, and it developed into a strong, healthy bird.

I recently compared the hybrid with the hen Grey Finch. There is very little difference in the colouring of the upper surface, but the under surface of the young hybrid is much paler, and shows a good deal of white, especially on the throat and abdomen.

The members of the genus *Spermophila*, do not appear to get their full adult plumage for a considerable time, at least not in their first year, and I still have hope that the hybrid will prove to be a male, especially as the light areas on its under surface correspond roughly with the pattern of the White-throat.

The old birds are still in fine condition, and I am looking forward to further success with them during the coming season.

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Egret Farming in Sind.

Reprinted from "The Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society," by kind permission of the Author, G. Birch, Esq.

In connection with the "plumage question" at present so much to the fore it will perhaps cause no little surprise to many to hear that the Little Egret (*Herodias garzetta*) is now being bred and reared with marked success in captivity and on an extensive scale in many parts of Sind, and that the Mirbahars (the generic term by which the fisher-folk of the inland waters of the Province are known) are building up a lucrative trade in osprey feathers plucked from the plumage of these birds, in the same way as feathers are plucked from the Ostrich.

During the course of residence on duty in the village of Ber in the Kamber Taluka of the Larkana District the writer spent some considerable time in investigating personally the *modus operandi* of the breeders, and has thought it worth while to record the results of his investigations, as the Egret or White Heron is regarded popularly as requiring most protection by the state against the depredations of man in the pursuit of the beautiful osprey plumes, now so valuable a commodity in the world of fashion.

The village of Ber is situated on the edge of the Chango Lake or dhand in the Larkana District.

At a distance of about three hundred yards from the village, and practically on the edge of the water, a colony of Mirbahars numbering some 200 men, women, and children, have their abode in reed huts A feature which attracted the writer's attention, since his last visit to the village, was the recent erection in front of each abode of quadrangular structures of reed mats some 20′. 8′. 8′, resembling an ordinary poultry run. On obtaining entrance into one of these structures he found it contained at least three score pairs of full grown Egrets in a state of freedom; there was a plentiful supply of perches for the birds, and the cage was tolerably clean. The birds appeared to associate in pairs, and met the intrusion with their usual hoarse cries.

Photo by G. Birch.

A liberal supply of food, consisting of small fresh water fish netted in the dhand, lay about in shallow earthen platters, and the birds helped themselves to this at pleasure. The birds were fairly tame and allowed themselves to be seized by their owners without showing any fear. There were about twenty such cages in the village, each containing about fifty birds on the average.

There was ample evidence to indicate that the birds breed freely in these conditions of modified captivity. Enquiries showed that under these conditions birds assume their nuptial plumage four times a year:

twice in summer and twice in winter; the summer plumage is comparatively poor, nearly half that of the winter plumage.

The breeding season commences early in March and continues up to the end of September. As soon as the breeding season begins the birds break up into couples; twigs are strewn about the cage and each pair of birds build a nest. The birds hatch their own eggs which are jealously guarded, the male bird invariably taking the place of the mother bird when she leaves the nest for food or exercise. The young are permitted to remain with the parent birds for about a week, when they are removed and reared by hand: the couple meanwhile commence to breed again.

The number of times the birds breed during this period depends on the degree of vitality of each pair; eggs are laid never less than twice during the season, and sometimes as many as four or five times; the number of eggs each time varies from three to five. It takes about 12 months for the birds to reach maturity.

The plumes are made up into small brushes, weighing about half a tola to a tola, and are taken to Sukkur and Karachi for sale. The prices realised range from 10 to Rs. 15 a tola: as each bird yields plumes seldom less than a tola in weight and often more during the year, it will be understood how lucrative a hobby Egret-farming has become. The Sukkur merchants export the feathers to Calcutta, whence they are no doubt smuggled out of the country to the European markets, where prices ranging as high as £15 an ounce of feathers are realised.

Not only has a trade in the feathers been built up, but the birds themselves now command a high market value; young birds three to four months old are sold at 10 to 12 per Rs. 100; full grown birds command as much as Rs. 100 per pair.

The ease with which the egrets are bred and multiply, the fruitful crop of plumes yielded by the birds and the high prices which the birds command are causing the industry to spread very rapidly in the neighbourhood of inland waters of the Province of Sind, and it may be predicted with safety that in a few years, if the demand for the plumes continues, every fishing village in the interior of the country will have its Egret farm. Of course the trade in plumes of the birds of the Egret and Heron species has always existed in Sind, but the methods followed were formerly quite different, and the trade never attained such large dimensions. The practice followed about three decades ago was to snare the birds and destroy them for their plumage. On this being stopped, by executive orders of the then Commissioner in Sind Mr. (now Sir) Evan James, the practice of snaring the birds and keeping them in captivity was resorted to; but this led to the infamous practice of sticking up the birds' eyes with the object of preventing them from escaping. The latter practice is now rigorously suppressed by action under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Act, and these orders have proved an important factor in the inception of the system of egret farming described in this note.

Episodes of Egret Farming. *Photos by G. Birch.*

Arrangements are being made to obtain a pair of the birds for the Karachi Zoo.

In this connection a question bound to arise sooner or later is the necessity for the modification of the drastic Notification issued by the Government of India in 1902 which "prohibits the taking by sea or land out of British India of skins and feathers of *all* birds other than domestic birds except (*a*) feathers of Ostriches, and (*b*) skins and feathers exported *bona fide* as specimens illustrative of natural history."

The result of the Notification has been to create a large industry in the smuggling out of the country even in cases where destruction and cruelty of birds are not involved, of feathers that have a distinct commercial value. If bird-farming on humane lines for the sake of plumage is to be encouraged in India, these orders must be modified. Only the other day the customs authorities at Karachi seized several boxes of Peacock feathers, which were being surreptitiously exported under a false declaration by a European firm. These were confiscated, and a fine imposed. Now it is well known that the Peacock moults its train. The bird is regarded as sacred by a large majority of Indians, and is seldom or never killed by them, and the occasions on which it is shot by inexperienced European sportsmen have not infrequently led to collisions with the country people. In many other directions the necessity for the amendment of the orders in question could be indicated, so as to encourage, instead of deterring, the farming of birds whose plumage has a distinct marketable value.

GEORGE BIRCH.
Assistant Commissioner in Sind.

Karachi, March 23rd, 1914.

[Mr. Birch has sent us some specimens of the plumes and also some photographs of the Egrets in the "farms," some of which are reproduced here.—Eds. J.B.N.H.S.] :

[It would be of interest if Mr. Birch or one of our Anglo-Indian members would supply a further note, giving the position of the industry at the present time—also fuller details of the hand-rearing of the young, and whether there is any known instance of the young having been brought to the stage of fending for themselves entirely by their parents.—Ed. B.N.].

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A Journey Across the Sierras, S. California

By Wm. Shore Baily.

Concluded from page 58.

After our three days' rest we set off for Santa Monica in Southern California and decided to follow the coast where possible, and the sands where these were sufficiently hard for wheeled traffic. By lunch time we had covered twenty miles, along the sands the whole way; a fair morning's work. The birds noted on the way were a pair of Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*), and two or three pairs of Grey Plover (*C squatarola*). I have shot these occasionally, and can see no difference between them and the English bird (*S. helvetica*). Like the latter they are indifferent eating. After lunch I walked across the sandhills and found on the other side an extensive lagoon. Bronze Ibis (*Plegadis autumnalis*), Black and White Godwits (*Limosa lapponica baueri*), and Grey Godwits (*L. haemastica*) were feeding in large flocks, as were hundreds of Whimbrels. Another little bird swimming about in considerable numbers was the Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). They look like miniature Gulls on the water as they float very high. I have seen them swimming out of sight of land and looking thoroughly at home. On land they are equally active, and run about like Sandpipers. On the way back to the waggon I flushed a Red-necked Phalarope (*C. fulicarius*), a very much rarer bird. I have no doubt but that its mate was sitting somewhere amongst the sandhills, but although I looked for some time, I was not successful in finding its nest. We had now passed outside the shelter of the Islands, and the regular Pacific swell was rolling in. In the surf numbers of Velvet-, and White-winged Scoters (*Oedemia americana* and *O. deglandi*) were diving, and we occasionally saw a few sleeping on the sands, but they do this presumably with one eye open, as they never let us get very near. I never remember getting within gunshot of one. Further out to sea, an immense flock of Fulmer Petrels (*Fulmarus glacialis glupischa*) were flying north. The flock extended as far as the eye could see in both directions, and must have contained millions of birds. After a storm I have occasionally picked up an injured one on the sands. They are rather repulsive birds with their wide open nostrils and oily smell. I should judge them to be about as large as our Herring Gull. This evening we reached a spot where a spur of the coast range ran down to the water's edge, and we could see that it would be only possible to get by at low water. At the back of the sandhills was a fresh-water marsh, also impossible for wheeled traffic. It was a case of either retracing our steps which, of course, we were loath to do,—or trying our luck at low-water, which would occur soon after midnight. So, as there was a full moon, we decided to camp early, get a few hours sleep—then do our best to get by. Whilst my partner was trying to catch a fish for supper, I took the gun and dog for a walk in the marsh. In the tules the Blackbirds were nesting in numbers, their curious catlike calls being heard in all directions. From the long grass I flushed several Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) three or four of which I shot, apparently all birds of the year. They are practically indistinguishable from *G. gallinago,* but, I think, that their flight is less erratic. This may be due to the fact that they are very seldom fired at. I also saw a pair of Greenshanks (*Totanus nebularis*). Ridgeway does not mention these as occurring in the States, but I have seen them on Buena Vista and other fresh-water marshes and always in pairs. I know the bird well, having shot it in the Isle of Man.

After a supper of Snipe and Surf-fish, we turned in for a few hours' sleep, getting under way again at mid-night. It was bright moonlight, which was lucky for us, as we found the beach at the foot of the mountain heavily strewn with boulders, some of large size. It required no small amount of skill to pick a way through and over these, and it would have been quite impossible to do so in a bad light. As it was it took us three hours to cover a little more than two miles. Day was just breaking when we cleared the mountains and halted for breakfast, which we felt we had well earned. Our short cut had saved us a fifty mile drive over a high mountain pass. While we were breakfasting we were interested in watching an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus-carolinensis*) fishing in the Surf, a sight not often seen in California, where these Sea Eagles are rare birds. We twice saw him strike and miss, but the third time he secured a fine surf-fish, which he carried away into the mountains. He may possibly have had an Eerie somewhere amongst the mountains. In the cliffs we had just passed we saw a colony of Cliff Swallows (*P. lunifrons*) were nesting. They were too far away for us to see whether they were nesting in holes or in nests attached to the face of the cliff. On the wing they look just like *H. domestica.*

After a couple of hours' rest, we resumed our journey along the sand. In the low sandhills two varieties of Terns were nesting, one large and probably *Sterna elegans* the other much smaller and probably *S. antillarum.* Their eggs were of the usual Seafowl type. About mid-day we reached Buena Ventura. This town has a large wharf, alongside which ocean-going vessels are able to berth. Large quantities of barley, beans, and oil, are shipped to all parts of the world. We remained here one day. In the afternoon whilst we were fishing from the Wharf we saw a Mexican shoot a Fork-tailed Tropic-Bird, with a rifle, as it was flying over. It was, I believe, the Red-billed Tropic Bird (*Phaethon aethereus*), a very rare straggler from the Southern Pacific. Whilst flying it looked a very large bird, but when recovered, I was surprised to see how small a bird it was. The next morning we resumed our journey up the Santa Clara Valley, following the course of the river—here a good sized stream. At places the banks were nearly a mile apart, but the stream itself was never more than one hundred yards across. The ranches here were principally devoted to barley, and bean growing. There were thousands of acres in beans. These beans are a national dish with the Mexicans, and are what are known as haricots in this country. They grow, like our dwarf runners, a few inches only from the ground. In one place a colony of Ground Squirrels had played havoc with the crop. These live, like our Rabbits, in warrens. In this case there were hundreds of holes in the side of a low hill. Their natural enemies are Hawks, Owls, and Snakes, but these do not keep their numbers down, so the ranchers have to employ trappers for this purpose, just as do our Dorset farmers for rabbits. About mid-day we reached Santa Paula once more. We had still about 120 miles, or a three days' journey to reach Santa Monica, but as the country passed through and the birds seen were similar to those already described, I bring my notes to an end here. In conclusion, I must say that the scientific names of the birds given are taken from Ridgway's Book. In the case of the Wildfowl, and some of the Hawks, these birds I have shot and handled, and am reasonably certain of their identity, but with the Seafowl and smaller birds, which I have not handled, my descriptions and identifications may therefore be at fault.

Birds of the Jhelum District and an Ornithological Diary from the Punjab.

BY H. WHISTLER, I.P., M.B.O.U.

Continued from page 78.

October 22.—Several more Little Green Bee-eaters seen.

October 23.—While out training my Falcons in the early morning I was much worried by a wild adult Peregrine which spoilt two flights for me by objecting to my bird on her preserves. Several White Ibis seen. About mid-day a large flight of Demoiselle Cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*) passed over my bungalow fairly low with a lot of clamour, and then started circling, evidently looking for a suitable place to alight.

Left by train for Bhattu in the evening.

October 24.—When out shooting Chenkara or Indian Gazelle near Bhattu I noticed that there were quite a number of Short-toed Larks about in flocks. Without securing any specimens I was unable to identify the exact species. A few Grey Quail were flushed. Wheatears have now become fairly common, the most numerous species being the Desert Chat (*Saxicola deserti*), but I saw a few Pied Chats (*S. picata*) and one White-capped Chat (*S. capistrata*).

Other interesting birds noted were a Pale Brown Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*), a pair of Ravens, and a few Kestrels and Harriers, and four Black Ibis.

October 25.—Marched from Bhattu to Futtahabad, seeing on the way a couple of Kestrels and a flock of Larks which appeared to be the Eastern Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*). At Futtahabad I found a large and very shallow jheel formed by the flooding of some fields. Here was a great variety of bird life; on the water were resting a large flight of Common Teal, and with them three Shovellers. In the shallows a large number of Waders, the Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus candidus*) were far the most conspicuous, owing to their black and white plumage and their long red legs. With them were a number of Redshanks (*Totanus calidris*). Here and there round the margin Green Sandpipers (*T. ochropus*), Common Sandpipers (*T. hypoleucus*), Greenshanks (*T. glottis*), were feeding with a few Stints, and what were probably Marsh Sandpipers (*T. stagnatilis*).

Plover were represented by a few odd individuals of the resident Red-wattled Lapwing (*Sarcogrammus indicus*), and the migratory White-tailed Lapwing (*Chettusia leucura*) while an odd Snipe or two were flushed from the heavy patches of Water convolvulus. Nor were larger birds wanting; on one stretch of ground some fifteen or twenty

Warty-headed or Black Ibis (*Inocotis papillosus*) were feeding, while opposite to them were resting a small party of White Ibis (*Ibis melanocephala*). Herons were represented by the Paddy-bird (*Ardeola grayi*), and after dusk the Night Heron (*Nycticorax griseus*). Attracted by the jangling cry of Cranes I looked up to see a big flock circling at a tremendous height in the air. The whole formed an interesting picture of bird life, for the most part reposeful until a passing Kite sent the Teal up with the pattering roar so distinctive of the startled wild fowl.

A most interesting bird was noted about an hour before dusk, when some flocks of the Eastern Stock-Dove (*Columba eversmanni*) came to drink. They arrived flying fast and settled at the edge of the water on the mud flats, but were up again in the air so quickly that they could hardly have taken a single sip of water; and this hurried drink was repeated just once or twice before the flock was off again in the direction from which it had come. This small Pigeon is the Eastern race of our English *Columba oenas,* and is a highly migratory bird, nesting in Central Asia and visiting the plains of India in the winter.

October 26.—At Futtahabad; visited the jheel where the birds present were as yesterday, with the addition of a single White Stork (*Ciconia alba*), who was striding about the weedy ground at the edge of the jheel, doubtless helping himself to some of the innumerable small frogs.

The Stock Doves arrived to drink at the same time and in the same hurried manner.

The curious little Brown Rock Chat (*Cercomela fusca*) is common about the buildings of the town and fort.

October 27.—Still at Futtahabad. Fewer birds at the jheel but I flushed a Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) which was not there before; also I saw what was probably a Pelican Ibis or Painted Stock (*Pseudotantalus leucocephalus*).

Several Marsh Harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*) about.

An Eastern Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia jerdoni*) noted.

October 28.—Marched from Futtahabad to Daryapur along the canal banks where I met with a party of Red-headed Buntings (*Emberiza luteola*)—rather to my surprise, as the numbers seen on migration appeared to have all left. Several Common Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) about; also some Sand Martins. At Daryapur Resthouse the Chaukidar in charge asked me to shoot an owl that lived in the trees, because it called at night, and the call was ill-omened. Hence I was not surprised at dark to see a pair of Dusky Eagle Owls (*Bubo coromandus*) come out of the trees, and fly about or sit on the trees calling. One of them exhibited great pugnacity towards a Kite who was staying up late, and fairly chased him off the scene.

Some Tree Pipits (*Anthus trivialis*) and a Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*).

Half-feathered young found in a nest of the Common Babbler (*Argya caudata*)

October 29.—From Daryapur back to Sirsa along the canal banks Some White Storks (*Ciconia alba*) were disturbed—a party of five and a single bird.

Two Black-bellied Terns (*Sterna melanogaster*) seen by the canal were the first Terns I have met in the district, which is mostly too dry for them. Both were in the immature plumage with white bellies.

Two Black-winged Kites (*Elanus caeruleus*) and a large flock of Red-headed Buntings (*Emberiza luteola*) noted; also some Common Swallows.

October 30.—An Eastern Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia jerdoni*) met with.

October 31.—A White Stork seen.

In addition to the Swallows noted above under various dates I may state that Sykes' Striated Swallow (*Hirundo erythropygia*) has been fairly common; a few Wire-tailed Swallows (*Hirundo smithii*) have been seen on various dates, although the majority have doubtless long departed.

RESUMÉ OF THE MONTH.

October has been a month chiefly noticeable for migration. Although from the position of the district so far from the hills and the sea specific instances of birds on passage are hard to observe, yet one has noticed the gradual departure of the summer visitors nearly all of which have completely gone by the end of the month, and the gradual arrival of or the reaching of their full numbers by the winter visitors. Some of the autumn passage migrants have been still about.

Very few species were nesting during the month.

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Book Notices and Reviews.

Birds of the Indian Hills.—By Douglas Dewar, I.C.S. London: J. Lane, The Bodley Head. Cloth. Large Post 8vo., 6s. net.

We have already given a brief notice of the appearance of this, another work on Indian Birds, from the skilled and prolific pen of our member, Mr. Douglas Dewar. The work is concisely and practically arranged, and holds the interest throughout its 265 pages. It is divided into three parts, viz.: Birds of the Himalayas—The Common Birds of the Nilgiris...The Common Birds of the Palni Hills. There are also two Appendices, viz.: I. Vernacular Names of Himalayan Birds; II.

Vernacular Names of Nilgiri Birds, also a comprehensive index. Parts II. and III. consist of single chapters, each comprehensive of the respective avifaunas.

Part I. "Birds of the Himalayas," is very full, and consists of many essays as follows: Introduction: Habitat of Himalayan Birds: Common Birds of the Western Himalayas: Common Birds of the Eastern Himalayas. Tits at Work: Pekin Robin: Black Bulbuls: A Warbler of Distinction: Spotted Forktail: Nest of the Grey-winged Ouzel: Black and Yellow Grosbeak: Great Himalayan Barbet.

The author describes the birds, their haunts, habits, etc., tersely, yet with an ease, freedom, and lucidity that bespeaks a keen first knowledge of, and interest in, the subject of his pen. This can be best illustrated by an extract or two, which I take from Part I, Habitat of Himalayan Birds:

"Himalayan birds inhabit what is perhaps the most wonderful tract "of country in the world. The Himalayas are not so much a chain "of mountains as a mountainous country, some eighty miles broad and "several hundred long—a country composed entirely of mountains and "valleys, with no large plains or broad plateaux. . . . . At "elevations of 4,000 feet the long-leaved pine (*Pinus longifolia*) "appears. From 5,000 to 10,000 feet, several species of evergreen "oak abound. Above 6,000 feet are to be seen the rhododendron, "the deodar, and other hill cypresses, and the beautiful horse-chest-"nut. On the lower slopes the undergrowth is composed of begonias "and barberry. Higher up maiden-hair and other ferns abound, and "the trunks of the oaks and rhododendrons are festooned with hanging "moss. . . . . Thus the birds of the Himalayas inhabit a "country in every respect unlike the plains of India. They dwell in "a different environment, are subjected to a different climate, and feed "upon different food. It is therefore not surprising that the two "avifaunas should exhibit great divergence. . . . . The eye "equally with the ear testifies to the traveller that when he has "reached an altitude of 5,000 feet he has entered upon another avian "realm. . : . the most familiar birds of the plains are no "longer seen. Their places are taken by the blue-magpies, the "beautiful verditer flycatcher, the Himalayan, and the black-headed "jays, and tits of several species."

The foregoing but very inadequately describes how fully the habitat of the Himalayan birds is set forth or how graphically the contrast is drawn between the plains and hills, and their respective avifaunas. We fain would have quoted fuller, but space forbids, although we must encroach with a partial description of the nest of the Spotted Forktail:

"The bank was steep and of uneven surface. Here and there a slab "of stone projected from it and pointed downward. Into a natural "hollow, under one of these projecting slabs a nest consisting of a "large mass of green moss and liver-worts had been wedged. From the "earth above the slab grew some ferns, which partially overhung the "nest. Across the nest, a few inches in front of it, ran a moss-

"covered root. From out of the mossy walls of the nest there 'emerged a growing plant."

I cannot quote further; *B.N.* readers should procure the book; though written mainly for use in India, it nevertheless should prove of great assistance to aviculturists, since Himalayan birds bulk largely in many aviaries, in the provision of suitable accommodation to induce the birds to reproduce their kind in captivity; and we cordially commend it to our readers, as being not merely an interesting book to be read and put aside, but also to be used as a work of reference.

◆

Correspondence.

RE NESTING RECORD.—SULPHURY SEED-EATER.

Sir,—I notice that in the inset to the January number of *Bird Notes* the Sulphury Seed-eater is recorded as having been bred for the first time in 1914.

Is not this a mistake? Unless I am much mistaken this species was bred by Mr. Teschemaker in 1909, and has a place in your book.*

February 12th, 1915.

South Bank, Gambia, E. HOPKINSON.

[In Vol. I., Series III. of *Avicultural Magazine,* Page 292, appears an account of Mr. Teschemaker's success with an apparent pair of *S. sulphuratus*. Arising from that article a letter appeared in Vol. II., "A.M." pointing out that Mr. Teschemaker's description of his female fitted *S. albigularis* and not *S. sulphuratus*. In the next number of the same Journal Mr. Teschemaker replied acknowledging that, after a visit to the British Museum and a look through their series of skins, his supposed pair were really a male *S. sulphuratus* and a female *S. albigularis,* (some species of *Serinus* are most difficult to determine, save by a close comparison of skins), therefore the young reared were hybrids We do not think a medal was granted, or if so it was returned. Thus, unless there is some later record, of which we are not aware, Mr. Shore Baily is entitled to the Club's Medal for being the first to succeed with this species.—Ed.].

*I fell into the same error as the writer of this letter, and did not discover same till Mr. Shore Baily's success had corrected it!—W. T Page.

NOTES OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

Sir.—I have pleasure in sending you another extract from my friend's letter as follows:—

"The Reverina district is my native place. My father "owns a sheep station and does a considerable amount of wheat-"growing. I have shot many hundreds of Galahs, Cockatoos, Quar-"rions, Red-rumps, and other Parrots. Galahs and Cockatoos alight "on the wheat-fields in flocks of between two and three thousands; "when the wheat is about two inches high they pull it up and bite off "the grain, thus doing an enormous amount of damage—they are grand "eating, like a plump half-grown rooster; when shooting, if you "succeed in wounding one or two they screech out, and the whole "flock keep circling low above your head and can be shot in great "numbers. They nest in the hollow limbs of great trees; we would "hit the trunk with the back of an axe, then place our ear close to "the tree, and if it contains any large young, you will hear a noise like "the Scotch bagpipes in the distance. Yes, many a day I have had "trapping, from the Cockatoos down to the little Honey-eater and "Sydney Waxbills; the latter, like the Diamond Sparrow, build a "bottle-shaped nest, about five or six feet from the ground. We "place a noose over the neck of the nest and let the string hang "down, then in the evening when both birds are inside quietly approach "and pull the string, then up the tree quick or they will make a hole "in the side and escape. When breeding is over they go in flocks; "then we use the nets. On several occasions the club has been out "for a day's trapping and grand sport we have had. I would like "you to go with me for a day, that is, if the weather was not too "hot—the last time I was out (the day I caught the Wood Swallows) "it was 108 degrees in the shade and a hot dry wind blowing."

The above *ante* dates the extract which appeared in March *Bird Notes*, and I hope may prove of interest. R. COLTON.

◆

Errata

Page 54, line 26, after "in," add .
Page 63, line 34, after "demeanour," add *of parents*.
Page 70, line 15, for "enilightened" read *enlightened*.
Page 73, line 5, for "Greend" read *Green*.

◆

Post Mortem Reports.

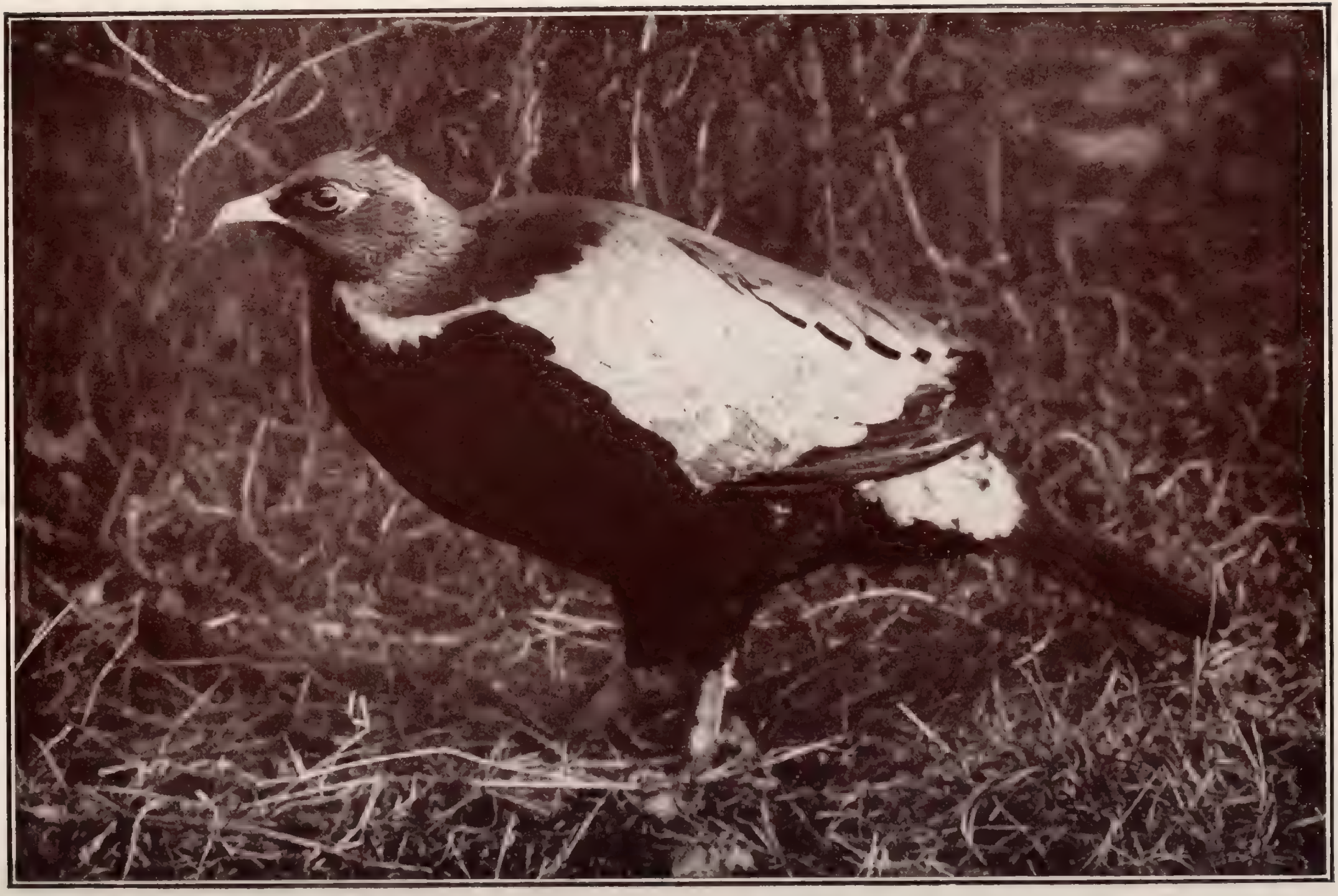
Vide Rules, see page II. of cover.

TUI PARRAKEET. (The Hon. Mrs. Bourke, 75, Gloucester Place, W.). The cause of death was acute yellow atrophy of liver, due to bacteria.

GOULDIAN FINCH (♀). (J. Currie, Edinburgh). Died from pneumonia and enteritis.

SPECKLED CONURE AND PETY'S CONURE. (Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.). The cause of death was pneumonia. The sex of both was female.

Continued on page 31 Inset (Pink Paper).



AVIAN PRESS PROCESS.

The Common Monaul Pheasant.

Photo by H. Willford.

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MAY, 1915.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Some Gorgeous Pheasants *(Phasianidæ).*

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

In writing these notes to accompany Mr. Willford's exquisite photo of the Common Monaul Pheasant, which forms our frontispiece; it is my desire to in some measure popularise this glorious group, rivalling as they do in the glittering hues of their plumage Birds of Paradise, Sun-, and Humming Birds, add to this diversity of form, plumage pattern, and courting displays; also, their hardiness, readiness to breed in captivity, and being but little more difficult to manage than domestic poultry, is surely sufficient to commend them to aviculturists.

What a diversity of gorgeous colouration, form, and interest would be found in a Pheasantry of six pens, "peopled" with any of the following:

Impeyan or Monaul.
Peacock.
Lady Amherst's.
Golden.
Elliot's
Swinhoe's.
Talisch.
Reeves'

Even a single or a couple of pens of any of the above gives a display of colour and beauty of which the eye never tires or interest wanes.

In these notes I propose to briefly describe the above species, and to conclude with a few remarks on general treatment, etc.

COMMON MONAUL PHEASANT (*Lophophorus refulgens*). Neither a photo, artist's brush, or pen can do justice to the glittering gorgeousness of this species. The refulgence of the plumage has caused the upper parts to come out quite light in Mr. Willford's beautiful photo, whereas they really give forth most of the tints of the rainbow according to the play of light.

The genus *Lophophorus* are termed Monauls or Moonals, though in this country the subject of this sketch is commonly known as the Impeyan, but the latter is really another and much rarer species (*L. impeyanus*), which (writing from memory) I do not think is yet known to English aviculture. Four species of Monauls are known to science, the subject of these notes, and as follow :

Impeyan or Bronze-backed Monaul (*L. impeyanus*), South Cashmere.

*L'Huys's Monaul (*L. l'huysii*), W. Szechuen and E. Koko-nor.

*Sclater's Monaul (*L. sclateri*), Hills of N.E. Assam.

*Have been exhibited at the London Zoo; the Common Monaul is an occupant of the Zoo-Pheasantry at the present time.

Description of the male: Head and a streak down each side of the neck metallic green shot with purplish-blue; bare skin round the eyes blue; back of neck intense copper-red with a wondrous refulgence, changing into golden-green as the light plays upon it, combined with the movements of the bird; upper back glittering golden-green; lower back pure white; remainder of upper parts lustrous purple, the feathers tipped with blue; under parts velvet-black, glossed with green on the throat; tail rufous-chestnut. Total length 26 inches, tail 9.

Female: Resembles a large Partridge, being a mottled arrangement of black, brown, and buff; she has a white throat, short crest, and bare space round eyes blue. Total length 23 inches, tail 7½.

These noble birds inhabit the higher elevations of the Himalayas, which provide vegetation and forest. Its food is roots and insects; with its powerful beak it is continually digging into the ground (does not scratch, or very little)—provision should be made to allow it to exercise this habit in captivity by having the ground area of its pen well drained. The species is polygamous and the courting display similar to that of the Turkey, but the feathers lie close and the dance is fairly active.

With cut or pinioned wings these birds could be allowed the run of a paddock or shrubbery. They are hardy, but their quarters should be constructed on well drained ground.

On the occasion of Club visits to the Zoo much admiration has been lavished on the glittering beauty of this species, and the writer has watched it in Mr. Willford's and other aviaries with interest and delight.

The writer would suggest to avicultural photographers that they attempt to secure photos of the courting display of these and other groups of birds.

GREY PEACOCK-PHEASANT (*Polyplectron chinquis*). The Peacock-Pheasants (*Polyplectron*), consist of five species, the above and as follow:

Germain's Peacock-Pheasant (*P. germaini*), Cochin China.
Malayan Peacock-Pheasant (*P. bicalcaratum*), Malay Peninsula and Sumatra to S. Tenasserim.
Bornean Peacock-Pheasant (*P. schleiermacheri*), Borneo.
Napoleon's Peacock-Pheasant (*P. napoleonis*), Is. of Palawan.
Bronze-tailed Peacock-Pheasant (*Chalcurus chalcurus*), Sumatra.

The Peacock-Pheasants are of small size and somewhat slender build; the Grey having a total length of 25½ inches of which the tail measures 13¼.

Adult Male: Upper parts drab-brown finely speckled with very pale buff; the wings, back, and tail are decorated with exquisite "eyes" of glittering green, shot with violet, which stand out as gems set in the plumage; the eyes are margined with rings of black, brown, and pale buff; bare skin round eyes yellowish.

Adult Female: Drab-brown speckled with pale brown with the metallic "eyes" of the male represented by black spots, only slightly glossed with violet. Total length 19 inches, tail 8.

This species ranges in a wild state from the Assam Hills, through Burma to Siam, and frequents thick jungle. Mr. R. A. Clark states:

> "These birds go about in pairs generally, but on one occasion, "in December, while riding through a forest pathway, I came across "a party of four, one male and three females, the latter easily dis-"tinguishable by their smaller size and duller colours."

It has bred at the London Zoo, and I think Mr. Willford and others have also met with success. The first young hatched at the Zoo were reared by a Bantam hen and it was noticed that the chicks followed close behind her, never coming in front to take food, so when their foster-mother was scratching they were frequently struck with her feet. When later a brood was reared by the Peacock-Pheasant, this behaviour was understood, for she spread her tail and the chicks followed her beneath its shelter, only running forward when she found some food for them, quickly retreating to the shelter of her tail again.

Mr. R. A. Clark states that they eat the fruit of the Jámun tree, a fruit with seeds like those of a "chilli," which together with insects and worms, form their chief food; he also found small land shells and pebbles in the stomach of an adult male.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*). A photo-reproduction and description of this species was given in *Bird Notes*, Vol. IV., N.S., page 135, to which I must refer my readers, merely stating that it cannot be said to be outrivalled in beauty by any member of this gorgeous Family. Not merely gorgeous beauty, but elegance and graceful carriage, exquisite pattern and chaste harmony are certainly the attributes of the male, and it should have a place in any collection of PHASIANIDAE. Its range is Western China and Eastern Tibet.

Golden Pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*). This fine species is the one most commonly met with in captivity, and though thereby it earns the appellation "common," yet its superb beauty always calls forth admiration, which is merely its merit, for it is a chaste harmony of fiery hues.

The mountains of Southern and Western China are its home.

A description of so well known a species is uncalled for in these notes. For those who do not desire to breed them a number of cocks may be penned together, say half-a-dozen, and a fine display they make on a roomy grass run. Really a most gorgeous ornament for the vicinity of the lawn of a suburban garden, as they are not a noisy species.

This species has crossed with the Lady Amherst's, Silver, Common, and Reeves' Pheasants; also with the Bantam Fowl.

Elliot's Pheasant (*Calophasis ellioti*). This species was also figured and described in "B.N." (*vide* previous reference), and consequently only the briefest notes are called for.

Its home is China, and though it is imported fairly freely, yet it does not seem to thrive in captivity as do the other species, though I have come across many quite long-lived specimens of it. The cock is addicted to wife murder, and it will be well to clip his wings, and also if necessary, shackle his legs, by connecting them with a piece of soft string of sufficient length to allow him to walk freely but not to run; thus enabling the hens to keep out of his way when he is of savage mood. Still this murderous trait is evidently individual, so when such turns up, it can be either got rid of or be fettered as above. I have seen them in many roomy runs where this trouble did not occur, therefore it will be well to give this species plenty of space and then all should be well.

The colour pattern of this species is peculiar, beautiful and striking. The *male* has the upper back, shoulders, wings, and chest, an intense bronze-red, shot with gold; white band each side of mantle; a band of purplish steel-blue and two of white across each wing; throat and fore-neck black; sides of neck and abdomen white; lower back and rump black, barred with white; tail pale grey, barred with chestnut. Total length 32½ inches of which the tail measures 19.

The *female* has a pretty and contrasty plumage pattern. General colour drab, barred, mottled and marked with black above and spotted on the breast; abdomen white. Total length 20 inches, tail 7¾.

SWINHOE'S KALIJ-PHEASANT (*Gennacus swinhoii*). This species forms one of the group of Kalij or Kaleege Pheasants which are eight in number, the above and as follow:

White-crested Kalij-Pheasant (*G. albocristatus*), W. Himalayas.

Nepal Kalij-Pheasant (*G. leucomelanus*), Mountain Forests of Nepal.

Black-backed Kalij-Pheasant (*G. melanonotus*), Forests of Sikhim and W. Bootan.

Black-breasted Kalij-Pheasant (*G. horsfieldi*), E. Bootan, Assam, Sythet, Cachar, Manipur, Chittagong, and N. Arakan.

Lineated Kalij-Pheasant (*G. lineatus*), Burma to Siam.

Anderson's Kalij-Pheasant (*G. andersoni*), Kachin Hills and the Salween Valley.

Silver Kalij-Pheasant (*G. nycthemerus*), S. China.

Adult Male: General colour sheeny purple-black; crest, mantle, and central pair of tail feathers pure white; scapulars dark crimson with bronzy reflections; bare skin of face red. Total length 29½ inches, tail 16.

Adult Female: A thickly mottled pattern of buff and black; bare skin of face red; throat, whitish-brown. Total length 19½ inches, tail 8.

It is a native of Formosa.

The male forms one of the handsomest of aviary Pheasants, as its contour is graceful and its colouration brilliant and striking.

TALISCH PHEASANT (*Phasianus talischensis*). This is a sub-species or intermediate form between the Common (*P. colchicus*) and the Persian (*P. persicus*), and, with Mr. Goodchild's clever drawing of the species, I need only note wherein it differs from *P. colchicus* and *P. persicus*.

It differs from *P. persicus* and resembles *P. colchicus* in having the wing-coverts sandy-brown instead of nearly white; on the other hand, the middle of the breast and sides of the belly are purplish-carmine, and the feathers of the chest and upper breast are narrowly margined with purple, as in *P. persicus*. (W. R. Ogilvie-Grant).

Its range is Talisch, on the S.W. shore of the Caspian Sea, is plentiful throughout Mazandaran to the Gurgan River. To the north of this true *P. persicus* is found.

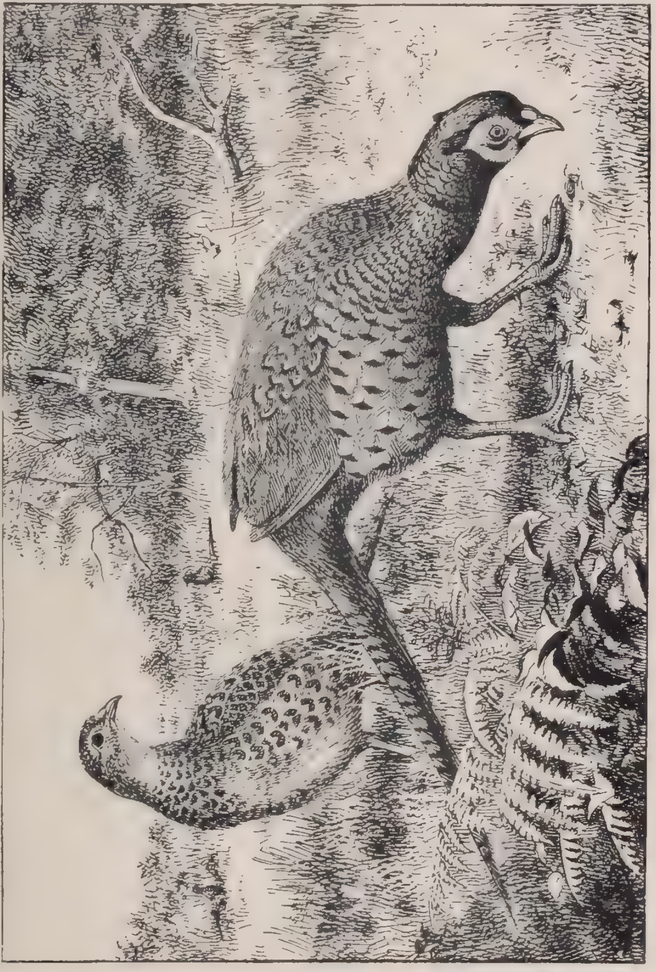
REEVES' PHEASANT (*Phasianus reevesii*). This is a large and striking species, with a tail some five feet long. This species has been turned out on some of the large sporting estates in Great Britain, but was not a great success, as it did not interbreed with the Common and Ring-necked species, but drove them away. I may as well quote one instance of at least partial success. A pair of these birds was imported by Lord Tweedmouth in 1870, and turned out in Inverness-shire; where the species was successfully maintained for several years, fresh blood being subsequently introduced by the acquisition of four additional male birds.

Adult Male. General colouration golden-chestnut, laced with black; wing-coverts white, margined and centered with black; crown white; face black; bare skin round eyes red; nape and throat-band white followed by a deep border of black; tail pale grey, barred with black and chestnut, the central pair of feathers much elongated. Total length 72½ inches, of which the tail measures 60.

Adult female. Beautifully mottled in several hues of brown, with a dark head, rufous on crown; buff throat and eyebrows, and the upper back speckled with white. Total length 32 inches, tail 16½.

This species would require space in which to show itself off properly, but given this they are superb. Pinioned birds at liberty, wandering about a large garden would also make a fine display and most probably breed.

The above eight species are but a few of the gorgeous species of this Family available for aviculture, and I venture to hope they may be more largely kept by our members in the future. My notes as to general treatment must be very general and brief, but I hope sufficient.



Talisch Pheasants. *From life, by H. Goodchild.*

A pheasantry of six pens, consisting of shelters at the back, with spacious grass runs in front, and stocked with some of the above species would make a grand display, as well as supplying unlimited interest and pleasure.

The runs for Pheasants should be well drained and not overcrowded - if these two points are attended to, the voidings frequently gathered up, an occasional digging and re-sodding will keep them fresh for quite long periods. The runs should contain some spreading evergreens and bushes, for as many Pheasants are hill birds and cannot endure heat, shade must be provided.

Pheasants must be watched at pairing time, for the vice of savagery is common to many species, and the movements of really vicious cocks must be hampered in some degree, either by cut wings, or hobbling the legs with a cord, leaving the hens full and free use of wings and feet.

Many hens do not show much inclination to sit, and the common practice is to collect the eggs and place them under Silky or Bantam hens, or to use some incubator and rearers.

My friend and fellow aviculturist, Dr. Lovell-Keays, rears Golden Pheasants very successfully, hatching the eggs under an ordinary broody hen, and when hatched putting the hen into an ordinary coop on his lawn or elsewhere, the chicks running about and picking insects from the grass; feeding them at first on insectile mixture. Apart from food treating them as domestic poultry chicks.

Pheasant chicks need much animal food in the earlier stages, but success can usually be attained with custard, ants' "eggs" and gentles; also game meals, canary and millet seed. and greenfood (lettuce, etc.), must be liberally supplied even to those occupying grass runs.

Adult Pheasants do well on a general mixture of small cereals and seeds, with game meal, and an abundance of greenfood. In the winter when greenfood fails, various roots, such as mangel-wurzel may be given, but they should not be left out in the open on frosty nights. The better plan is to supply regularly what will be eaten up, leaving the birds the healthy exercise of foraging about their runs, between the morning and evening meals.

◆

My Indian Nightingales.

By B. Theo. Stewart.

"They put the Nightingale into a cage but he only sang 'Oh my Rose-bush!'"

My Shamas know nothing of monotony and they mistake the cigarette smoke which envelopes their cages for the perfume of the lost rose-bush.

Photo by T. G. Nicalson.

A Tame Shama.

There is something peculiarly fascinating about the Shama, at any rate to me. I think the bird must have the artistic temperament! He is at once so charming, so sensitive, and *so lonely!*

I had a glorious collection of Shamas at one time; now the bloom of time covers their memories.

Only one remains of that bright train. Not much, but it is sufficient.

A Shama is very insistent!

My first Shama was a delightful hand-reared and obviously young bird. He sang charmingly too. It struck me however that he had but a short way to fly, on to my finger, where he spread his wings for their last flight.

Nightingales are strangely susceptible to beauty! I cannot believe that climatic conditions affected the manner of his going.

Of Madame Shama I have had a long acquaintance—though nature has painted her in faint colours, yet she has charms. Her voice is sweet and low like the still small voice of conscience, only more welcome.

I have nothing but a tender regret for my first hen, in that she died, and died so young. The Gods knew best. They took her before her character developed.

Madame is nothing if not peculiar, and in matters of the heart she is atrocious. One I had was a perfect Amazon and she worried me. Night after night she sang, until I wearied of the eternal question she propounded. I could not answer her satisfactorily, so in desperation I withdrew the wire partition which separated her from the feathered Apollo she importuned and left them to the enjoyment of that moment called " intense ! "

It never arrived !

When I thought to look upon their happiness, a triumphant and excited lady greeted me. Like Salomé she appeared to have cast some of her apparel in the love dance, and a greatly agitated and dishevelled cock appealed to me for protection. I do not think he ever forgave me. Like one of Paul de Kock's heroes I had made him appear ridiculous. I have heard it said that all Shamas sing alike. This is not my experience. I have had half a dozen birds singing at the same time -no two sang alike. But certainly all Nightingales choose one divine theme, strike one chord, " the sweetest name that ever love grew weary of ——."

The solitary Shama that I have at present is superb in size and colour and a most passionate singer. He is somewhat of a mimic too, I confess, with regret; mimicking is so commonplace and it spoils his music. He is exceptionally tame, quite familiar in fact at times.

Latterly however I notice he is somewhat moody and occasionally resents interference. It may be that he objects to the close proximity of his feathered neighbour (an extremely rare bird—no, I won't reveal the species, there should always be a reticence between aviculturists!); perhaps too though the Shama is a Star Artiste, he is yet jealous of another competitor and fears to lose the place that will be his for ever.

: : : : :

Sing on, little Nightingale, perched upon my finger— You speak the only tongue you know -you have no regrets, no memories and the perfume of your lost rose-bush is with you yet.

◆

Good and Bad Points in My Aviaries—Failures and their Lessons.

By Wm. Shore-Baily.

They say in business that "nothing succeeds like success" and this is undoubtedly true, but, in most cases success is only reached after many failures, and this is certainly so in aviculture.

My mistakes and failures, since I first started keeping birds in 1909, have been many, but I am now beginning to reap the benefit of these experiences, and after all, although it is costly, we learn more from our own failures than from reading about other people's.

When I built my first aviary, I had the idea that if there were plenty of room upwards, the loftiest one I could get built would be the most economical and satisfactory; so I selected a position in the shrubbery, bounded on one side by the drive and on the other by a garden path. The space available between two lime trees was about 30 x 15 feet. On this were growing an acacia, chestnut, and a few shrubs. On inspection by my carpenter he decided that it would not be safe to build the aviary more than 15 feet high, so we lopped off the top of the chestnut tree and allowed the acacia to stick out through the roof. The northern end and the sides for a distance of 12 feet we boarded in, thus forming an open shelter; the other portion of the aviary was boarded all round to a height of 3 feet from the ground. The roof of the shelter was covered with galvanized iron, and half-inch mesh wire netting was stretched over the remaining portion of the aviary. It was furnished with shelves, branches of trees, nest boxes and a few barrels.

This aviary was stocked with a series of Common Finches, Budgerigars, Parrakeets, Parrots, Cockatoos, Doves, etc. Things went very well for a time, but then the Budgerigars began to nip off the legs of an odd Finch or two every now and again; the Cockatoos began to devour the woodwork and practically destroyed the chestnut tree by paring off the bark. It then became necessary to catch and remove these criminals. This we found to be anything but an easy task for after three of us had had an hour or more with landing nets etc., the net result was one Budgerigar captured and an aviary of badly frightened birds. As this method of catching seemed hopeless we decided to make our next effort at night-time with the aid of a cycle-lamp. This succeeded better, at any rate as far as catching Budgerigars were concerned, and we soon had captured quite a lot, but, to my surprise their number did not seem much reduced, which was not to be wondered at, as we found the cage into which we were putting them had a wire out, thus we were netting the same birds over again and our actual catch for the night was four Budgerigars. It was again obvious some other method must be adopted. I got the carpenter to make a box with a falling front, into which their feeding boxes and seed hoppers could be put, and once the birds became accustomed to feeding here, their capture became fairly easy, as my man could stand outside the aviary with the string attached to the door of the trap in his hand, and when he saw the wanted bird enter, allow it to fall. The trouble, however, was that nearly every bird but the right one would enter first, and many were trapped that were not wanted, and got so badly frightened that some would rather starve than enter again, so I had a second built in another part of the aviary, so that when birds became shy of one, they could be fed in the other.

After this things went smoothly for some time, when disaster, in the form of a rat, carried off about thirty of the small birds. To prevent any recurrence of such an experience I dug a trench all round the aviary about two feet deep, and let in galvanised iron sheets, afterwards filling up the trench with cinders and broken stone. This proved effective and rats have never since troubled me; but mice, both common and field, are still a nuisance.

In the autumn as the trees shed their leaves I began to lose a certain number of birds from pneumonia, etc. This was evidently due to the shelter giving insufficient protection from the south-westerly wind, the prevailing wind at this time of year; so I found it necessary to cover in the greater part of the front of shelter, after which losses were decidedly fewer.

From this first year's experience I learned: (1) That tall aviaries are unsuitable where birds have to be frequently caught, as is the case where young are reared. (2) That it is essential to have either fine mesh wire netting or galvanised iron sheet let into the ground for a depth of two feet all round the aviary. (3) That for the winter months, a certain amount of shelter from all winds is necessary if birds have to be kept outside. (4) That care must be taken as to what birds are allowed to associate together.

The only birds bred were, if I remember rightly, some Peaceful Doves (*Chalcopelia tranquilla*).

The next season, profiting by these experiences, I erected three more aviaries. Along one side of my stable-yard is a wall about 7 feet high and 80 feet long; at one end is the stable and at the other a small poultry-house. Using the wall, which faces South, for the back of the aviary, fifteen feet to the front and parallel with it, I dug out a trench two feet deep; at every six feet I put in a post, fastening these together with galvanized iron sheets; these being carried two feet into the ground and three feet above it. Along the back

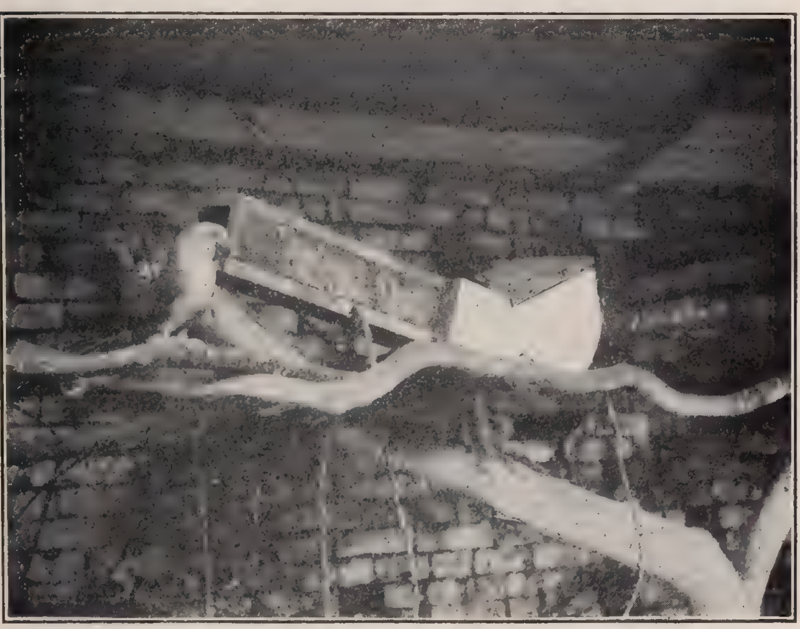


Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Banjo Nest Box.

of roof, and resting on the wall, other galvanized sheets were nailed, forming an open shelter 6 feet wide, the whole length of the flight. The rest of the aviary was covered as usual with wire-netting of ½-inch mesh. The poultry-house at one end and the stable at the other made excellent indoor shelters, and by running a wire-netting division from back to front, in the centre of the flight, I had two useful aviaries. As there were two loose boxes on the side of the stable, each with a window facing the yard, I put up a similar flight in front of the second, this giving me three aviaries, each 40ft. x 15ft. x 8ft. high. In neither of these were there any plants, so I fitted them up with branches of trees, nests, etc., and used them largely for Parrakeets, although both Doves, Quails, and Finches were also kept therein.

On the whole these were an improvement on the first one built. It was comparatively easy to catch any bird that was wanted, and for the Parrot-tribe they were eminently suitable, but when the winter came it was necessary to drive the small birds inside, and I found that although it was easy enough to do so in the aviary with the poultry-house shelter, it was quite a different thing in the stable-aviaries. Here the wire-netting roof was 2 feet above the tops of the windows, and, although the Parrakeets found their way in readily enough, the Finches would persist in clinging to the netting, and every bird would have to be caught and put in by hand. To do away with this trouble I lowered the netting to the top of the window, and I have now but little difficulty in getting them all in at night.

Breeding results the first season were not very good, the entire lack of natural cover evidently deterring many of the Finches from even attempting to nest, and, the Parrakeets interfered with each other considerably, in one or two cases their quarrels ended in tragedy. However, young of Bronze-neck Doves (*Zenaida auriculata*), Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californica*), Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*Agapornis nigrigenis*), Budgerigars, Gouldian Finches (*Poephila gouldiae*), and Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) were fully reared.

In the autumn I decided to have an aviary where Finches, Thrushes, etc., could live, under more natural conditions, and be induced to go to nest and reproduce their kind.

To accomplish this I measured off a piece of my garden forty feet by thirty, enclosing this with wire-netting and galvanized-iron, on the same lines as the last three aviaries were constructed, keeping also to the same height. I planted this with laurels, privet, box, and a few small conifers; also with such flowering-plants as Michaelmas Daisies, Sunflowers, etc. At one end I put up a small shelter 20ft. x 7ft.; at the other I dug out a small pond, which was constantly supplied with running water from a small stream.

A good many birds nested here the first season, but the sole result was the enrichment of my collection of birds' eggs, as the majority of the eggs were for some reason or other infertile. A Green Cardinal (*Gubernatrix cristata*) laid twenty-five eggs, all of which were clear. What few birds left the nest fell victims to my Blue Rails before they were able to fend for themselves. These handsome birds, and also the Grey-backed Porphyrios, proved veritable murderers, and I had to dispose of both pairs.

The shelter, I found, was very little used by the birds, although it proved useful to drive them into when any had to be caught. The reason they failed to use it was, I think, because the entrance to the flight was through the shelter, so that the birds were disturbed each time anyone entered the aviary. This has now been altered.

To be continued.

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My Yucatan Jay.

By Lady Kathleen Pilkington.

It has been the writer's privilege to own many birds of all kinds and sorts, from the hand-reared and disreputable Jackdaw of her nursery days to the delicate and beautiful foreigners of maturer years, but among them all none has ever possessed more charm of mind, manner and appearance than the Yucatan Jay, which is now by far the best beloved of the occupants of the bird-room.

He came into my possession at the L.C.B.A. Show of 1913, a young hobble de hoy—still adorned with the yellow beak and immature plumage of youth. Each day of the Show the desire to appropriate him became stronger, and on the final day I could resist him no longer, and so I cast aside those economical resolutions with which I always arrive at a bird show, but seldom keep; I made the plunge and he travelled up to Yorkshire witn me next day, to take up his abode in a large cage in the bird-room window, where he soon made himself most thoroughly at home.

His first moult was rather an anxious time, as he did not get on at first any too well, his old feathers had mostly to be pulled out by hand, and the new ones hung fire for some time, giving him a most dilapidated appearance, but eventually he became well feathered, with the exception of his head and neck, which remained for some time absolutely bald; anything more comical than he looked with his long bare neck and absolutely smooth head cannot be imagined. I was in despair and was seriously thinking of "Tatcho," when at last a stray feather or two grew on his smooth pate, and after a time, but very slowly, others came in a very leisurely manner, and finally he had no further claims to the name of "Baldwin," bestowed on him by my scoffing family. The youthful yellow of his beak, and mouth also gradually changed to black, but in small patches, also contributed not a little to his quaint appearance. But that is all a thing of the past now, and Baldwin is a very handsome bird, his glossy blue and black colouring showing up well against his bright yellow legs. I soon found that to keep him in good form as much carnivorous food as possible was a necessity, as he will eat but little of anything else. Luckily plenty of mice were forthcoming, and he has on an average three or four a week during the autumn and winter, whenever possible in fact, but the mouse season seems to go off in the summer. The common house mouse is Baldwin's preference, he looks coldly on field mice, though he will, *faute de mieux*, occasionally condescend to partake of them. Shrew mice, however, he regards as special delicacies, and there is not much left of one in his cage after an hour or two. Failing these specialities he always has a slice of either raw or cooked meat per diem, and plenty of bones to pick at, also a few mealworms daily, and any grubs, caterpillars, etc., we come across are received with approbation. He has a little insect food always, though he picks this over more than eats it, some of the Tanagers' sponge-cake mixture of which he eats a little; and the Sunbirds' sop, with a liberal dose of cod liver oil in it, he is very fond of. Grapes he appreciates, and he generally has orange and banana too, though again I fancy he more plays with these more than anything else. He is a great bather, and splashes about every day in his bath with regularity, even occasionally twice. Being extraordinarily active in mind and body, I made a point of giving him every sort of toy to play with, and his cage is a strange collection of stones, sticks, old tins and boxes, and every kind of oddment with which he assiduously plays, and ends by generally throwing out of his cage. I also give him a handful of Parrots' food occasionally, and he is busy for hours with the various seeds, monkey nuts, etc. The great danger with these sort of birds, to my mind, is boredom, and I intend to put him out in a little run in the summer, to give him change of scene and ideas.

Tame is a poor word for Baldwin, his one idea is that you should play with him, and the more you scratch his back and head, or take him in your hand, the more he enjoys it. Cleaning his cage is a work of time, as he ceaselessly snatches the knife, or duster, or brush you may have in your hand, away, and runs triumphantly off with it, and you cannot come close to his abode without his endeavouring to press a bedraggled mealworm or choice fragment of mouse, from his little black mouth into yours, secure, perhaps, in the knowledge that you are unlikely, really owing to your bad taste, to deprive him of these his greatest treasures. Owing to his somewhat too keen interest in the other, and smaller inmates of the birdroom he cannot be loose there, and other parts of the house are not safe owing to the many dogs, but, as he seems absolutely well and happy in his cage, I leave well enough alone. Lately I have heard him several times apparently trying to talk and imitate conversations, but he will never do this if you are in the room with him, but sticks to the usual Jay chatter, and makes a hideous noise, like a policeman's rattle.

But I might write for ever of his little ways and habits, so this must be all, and I can only hope, should any who read these notes be lucky enough ever to own a Baldwin of their own, they may be of some use to them.

Editorial.

NESTING RECORDS: These are rather slow in coming to hand this season. Mr. C. Croker reports (April 27) that Cutthroats and Zebra Finches have young on the wing; also, that the pair of Chaffinches, which reared two young last season, have started building operations again.

In Mr. W. T. Page's aviary Grey-winged Ouzels and Black Tanagers are incubating.

During a recent visit to Dr. Lovell-Keay's aviaries, we noticed an almost completed nest of the Black-gorgeted Jay-Thrush; Peach-faced Lovebirds were incubating, and many species were showing signs of nesting, but many pairs which had spent the winter indoors, had not yet been given access to the flights.

In Mr. Bainbridge's aviaries the Indian White-eyes have already nested and hatched out one chick, but it was not reared. In addition the following are either nesting or have young on the wing, viz.: Diamond, Zebra, and Red-headed Finches; also Diamond Doves.

L. M. TRELOAR CRIPPLES' HOSPITAL AVIARIES.—We tender our sincere thanks to several members for gifts of birds to the above institution, as follow:

1 pair Java Sparrows.—Mr. R. A. Holden.
1 Magpie Mannikin.—Mr. R. A. Holden.
9 Cutthroats.—Mr. R. A. Holden.
1 African Ring-neck Parrakeet (♀).—Mr. J. C. Schlüter.

My Present and Past Aviaries.

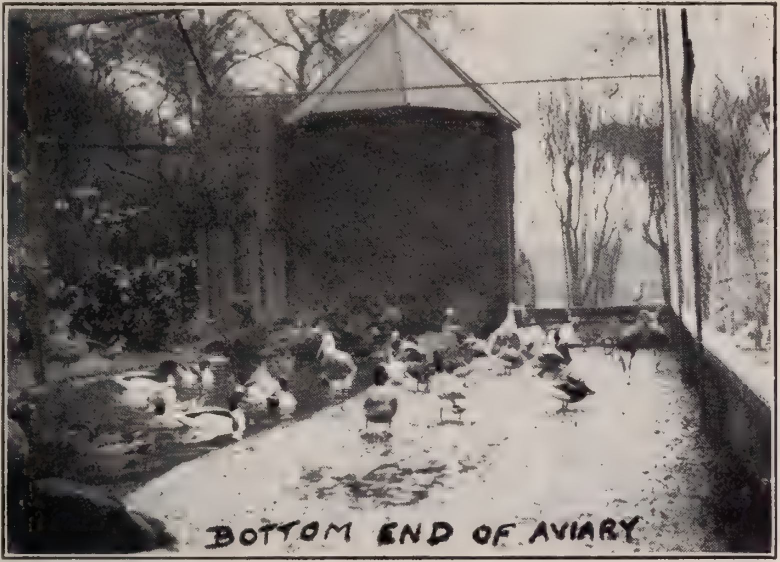
BY J. W. MARSDEN.

(Continued from page 90).

MY PAST AVIARIES: These were situated at Leeds and I was not then a member of F.B.C. There I mostly kept Waterfowl, Pheasants, Parrots, Cockatoos, and Macaws.

The Waterfowl Aviary, of which three photo-reproductions are given, was 36 x 30 feet, with a stream running through it.

I did not have much breeding luck with them, owing, I fear, to the aviaries always being too crowded. I can only call to mind: Upland Geese, Carolina Ducks, Californian Quail, and a few fancy Pheasants as having successfully bred.



A few notes re the breeding of the Upland Geese may be of interest interpolated here. I can call to mind the first breeding episode of this species quite well. My first pair came from the Clifton Zoo and were quite young when they reached me; by the following summer the Goose developed into a fine bird, but the Gander was not so good. I then procured another pair from Mr. Jamrach in which the conditions were reversed, the Gander being very fine and the Goose poor. By dividing them up I was in possession of one pair of very fine birds, and another pair not anything like as good; the latter I turned into the aviary, but the former had a small sunny enclosure at the bottom of the garden to themselves.

On the following Good Friday the first egg was laid and three others followed, with the lapse of a day between the laying of each egg. Incubation commenced with the laying of the fourth egg, and on Whit-Sunday two goslings had their first look round (the other two eggs were infertile). I kept

Exterior of Aviary.

them in the enclosure for a few days, but could not get the Goslings to eat anything. However, as soon as I let them out on the grass they commenced to feed at once, and quickly picked up other food and grain. One of them had evidently gone without food too long and soon died, but the other throve well and ultimately developed into a fine Goose.

Top end of Aviary.

I kept all the following species among others:

SWANS: Black, White, and Black-necked.

DUCKS: Mandarin, Carolina, Chilian and Common Pintail, Common and Chilian Wigeon, Garganey, Blue-winged and Common Teal, Ruddy, New Zealand and Common Sheldrake; Crested and Common Pochards, etc.

HYBRID DUCKS: Pin-tail × Mallard, Wigeon × Mallard, Pochard × Rosy-bill.

PHEASANTS: Gold, Amherst and Elliot's; also hybrid Gold × Amherst, and Silver × Swinhoe's.

ETCETERAS: Flamingo, Demoiselle Cranes, Spoonbills, Common Stork, Heron, Curlew, Blue Gallinules, Plovers, and small Waders.

I think an episode in the life of my Flamingo may prove of passing interest. The negative, from which the print was recently made, was taken twenty years ago by my friend and fellow member, Mr. F. Somers, M.R.C.V.S. It will be noted that one of the Flamingo's legs is in splints. The bird slipped off the edge of the pond and broke its leg, and I had to try my hand at "first aid." I got some wood splints and wide tape, bound it up, and then sent off for Mr. Somers, who put round the splints a casing of plaster of Paris; as soon as this was set the bird was able to limp about. I had some little trouble owing to the foot swelling, but by keeping it on very damp sods he was quite fit again in a few weeks.

Flamingo.
(*Left leg in splints*).

MY PSITTACI: These were mostly Macaws, of which I possessed: Blue and Yellow, Red and Green, Red and Yellow, Military, Hyacinthine, and Glaucous. In addition I had various Amazon Parrots and Parrakeets.

Probably there may not be much of interest, save to me personally, in these notes, but I am writing at the Editor's request for a few notes to accompany the photos. If breeding results were mediocre, my birds, "past and present," have been to me a source of great interest and pleasure, and, I hope may prove of some little interest to some other member.

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Correspondence.

115, NOT OUT.

Sir.—The enclosed cutting from the Sydney "Daily Telegragh" (May 11th, 1912), will probably interest some of our members. I only received it this week. My correspondent has seen the bird several times and states that the details given are correct.

Sheffield, 10/3/1915. R. COLTON.

"The bird was trembling in every feather. Poor thing, the "visitors think; he must feel the cold this wintry weather. But it is "old age that makes him shaky; he is just the same in the middle "of summer."

"Paddy Bennett lives at the hotel at Tom Ugly's Point and "if his age is not 115 years, as his owner believes, it must be going "on that way. He looks his age, whatever it is, and Mrs. Bennett, "the licensee of the hotel, reckons it thus. She first became acquainted "with him 35 years ago, when he belonged to one Capt. George Ellis. "Capt. Ellis died soon after at the age of 89, and he first met Paddy "when an apprentice on a sailing ship in the South Seas. Paddy was "then said to be nine years of age, and was a fine bird, with beau-"tiful white feathers and yellow crest. For he is (or was) a Sulphur-"crested Cockatoo—one of the sort that go about in flocks and tear "up the wheat in the farmers' paddocks. Fancy Paddy flying with a "flock of cockatoos now-a-days!"

"So his age has been fixed at 115, and in case anyone thinks "a bird might not live that long, let us add that next to tortoises "and fish, birds are about the longest-lived of any of God's creatures. "Let it be remembered parenthetically though, that the oldest Sulphur-"crested Cockatoo, of which an authentic record has been kept "Paddy "Bennett" excepted), died at the age of 75—quite a chicken to Paddy. "Next Wattle-Day Paddy will celebrate his 116th birthday, because "as the actual day of his birth is not on record, Wattle-Day has been "chosen as being as probable as any other day. He will then hold "a special levée."

"The holding of levées is quite the usual thing with this "gay old bird. His life is one long levée. Visitors call in to see "him from far and wide. Among his best friends was Sir Harry "Rawson, who never passed that way without stopping for a word "with Paddy. The old chap is very chatty when so inclined. He "hops about, flaps his glossy pinions, and shouts 'One more feather "and I'd fly.' And he looks down from his perches and queries "'Will I chance it, boys'? He chanced it yesterday, when we photo-"graphed him, but found he had forgotten how to fly, and turned a "couple of somersaults before colliding with the earth. Just as well "for Paddy the perch was not at the top of a tree. Alas! the bird "must have fallen into evil company at some time of his career. "He has been known to use unparliamentary language, and only the "other day, when he said to his owner 'Good morning' and got no "reply, he observed in raucous tones 'Why the devil don't you say "good morning'? No wonder Mrs. Bennett loves him. She says "she has been offered £1,000 for him and refused."

"Nevertheless, Paddy is kind-hearted. Only give him a green "pea and he will do anything for you. . . . . May Paddy "Bennett live to be a thousand."

[There are several records of members of the Parrot-tribe passing the century in this country, and more still of birds 80 and over. Quite a large photo-reproduction accompanied the above notes, depicting a decrepit old bird standing on the top of its cage quite destitute of clothing, save for perhaps a dozen disreputable feathers and a few stumps The grain of the illustration was very coarse and the paper too marked with fold creases to reproduce it here. We have deleted part of the last paragraph as having only local interest.—Ed. "B.N."].

THE SEASON, 1914.

Sir,—In reply to your request for season's doings, I am very glad to give a few notes of my experiences.

They began by my finding hen birds, for my unmated cocks, very difficult to get, but at last my needs were met.

During the season my pair of Zebra Finches hatched out three small broods, the first on August 3rd consisted of five, the second three and the last two; all of which were reared.

My pair of Cutthroats produced a brood of three, all of which were hens.

A pair of Silverbills had two broods of three, of these two were lost owing to a Hawk frightening them to death while they were in the outer flight.

A pair of Canaries reared quite a few young one and of these I kept three. About a month ago all five (young and parents) escaped, one Sunday morning while they were being fed—all that day and part of Monday they were in the fields and woods, flying about and singing cheerily. On Monday I was lucky enough to entice them all back, and they are now busy with nesting operations.

I have always felt my birds had not sufficient freedom, so for summer use I am adding an outer flight, of the same size as the original one, with a large opening between them.

Although we have had rather a severe winter for this part of the country I am pleased to say I have not lost any birds from cold. On some of the most severe nights I have hung up a curtain round the glass sashes, but have not supplied any form of artificial heat. I have, however, added a range of pigeon-holes filled with moss and feathers, above the wire frames you saw, when calling her earlier in the year, and these the birds occupy freely.

Tverton, Devon, 31/3/1915. (Mrs.) JESSIE G. POPE.

BIRDS NEAR THE FIRING LINE.

[The following letter, just to hand, from our member, Dr. E. Sprawson, who has been with the Expeditionary Force in France, almost from the beginning, will, I think, interest many of our readers. It may also be of interest to state that Capt. E. C. Sprawson is attached to the O.C. Sanitary Section of the R.A.M.C.—Ed :]

Sir,—I saw in a London paper, about two months ago, that bird life anywhere near the firing line was conspicuous by its absence; where I have been for the past—nearly four months, and there is plenty of rifle and shell fire about, bird life seems to be fairly plentiful, and these birds do not seem to take any notice of the noise, except to move away from the vicinity of shell bursts.

I have seen some 24 species during this time, from within say, 1,000 yards to 3 miles of the trenches, which is well within range of of shells, etc. In fact a few weeks ago I saw a Thrush singing within 100 yards of a sixty-pounder gun, which was in action at the time, and makes "some" noise, but the bird did not seem to mind, and carried on with its song as if there were no gun fire there. Have not seen any summer migrants here yet.

12/4/'15. (Capt.) EVELYN SPRAWSON.

P.S.—I had an 8in. Krupp high explosive shell burst about 10-15 yards away from me three or four days ago, and like the birds "moved away from the vicinity"—it was in an open field—these shells make a hole about 5ft. deep and 13ft. across.—E.S.

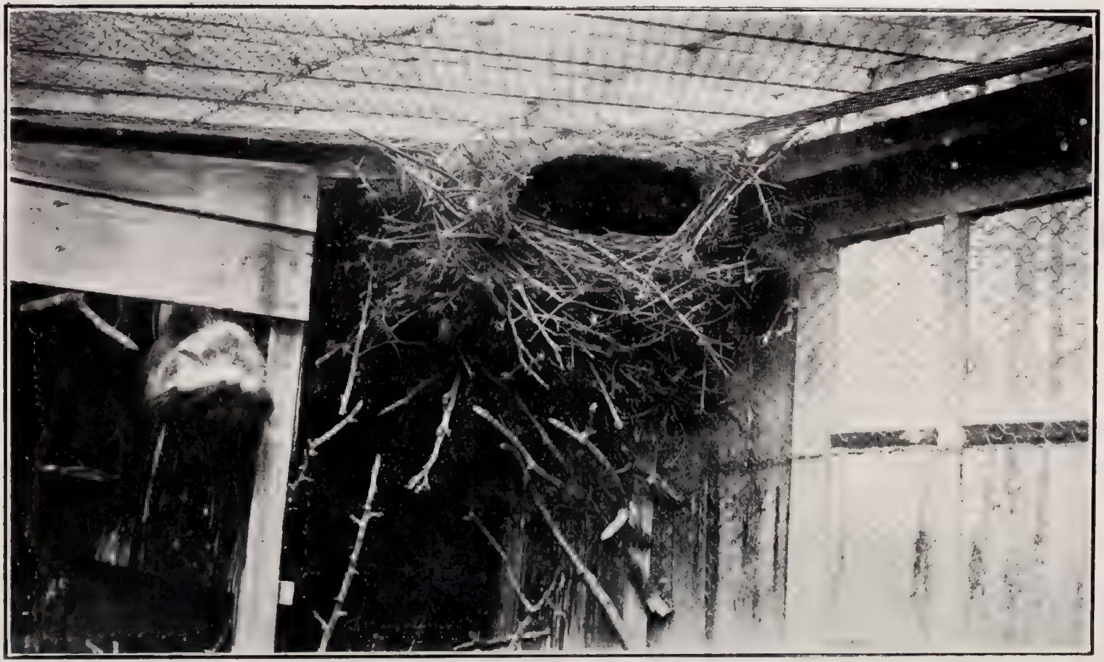
NEST OF QUAKER PARRAKEETS.

Sir,—As requested, I am enclosing you photos of the Quaker Parrakeet's nest.

The photos were kindly taken for me by Mrs. Geo. Cran, Steep Hill, Farnham.

Last year the same pair of birds successfully reared four young Quakers, three of which are still in the aviary. This season they have simply thoroughly repaired last season's structure, and, as will be seen from the plate, Quaker Castle for 1915, is both substantial and ornate.

Burrow Inche C. E. CROKER.
Lower Bourne, Farnham, 3/5/'15.



Nest of the Quaker Parrakeet.

Photo by Mrs. Geo. Cran.

ABNORMAL PLUMAGED YELLOW-FRONTED AMAZON.

Sir,—I have got rather a curious Yellow-fronted Amazon, but I do not know whether it is of any special interest.

This bird is a lutino or very nearly so. The general appearance is Canary-yellow, shot with a very pale green that is almost invisible. The frontal patch is quite yellow and small in extent, behind this are a few pale *blue* feathers; the flight feathers are white. The greenest areas are the cheeks, nape, and about the root of the tail. The mandibles are both the same colour, viz.: pearly grey. When the bird came to hand several claws were missing, but they show signs of growing again.

Ecclefechan, 28/4/'15. E. J. BROOK,

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Birds of the Jhelum District and an Ornithological Diary from the Punjab.

By H. Whistler, I.P., M.B.O.U.

November 1.—When out with my Hawks in the morning: I saw the first Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) that I have seen this winter, and a Barbary Falcon (*Falco barbarus*). The former came up attracted by one of my Peregrines that had been given a pigeon, and flew within easy gunshot, round and round us some eight or ten times, eyeing the Pigeon which my bird was breaking into on the ground; it finally went off and settled on a neighbouring tree. We had a net with us, and unsuccessfully tried to catch it, but the Cherrug is most easily taken by means of the "Paros" which unfortunately we had not with us. The "Paros" is a large ball of felt or similar material covered with the skin of any brown-coloured bird, and bristling with strong horse-hair nooses. This is attached to the feet of a Falcon of small value (the Lugger Falcon is generally used for the purpose), and the Falcon has its beak tied up to prevent its spoiling the "Paros," and several of its wing feathers tied to prevent it flying too well. Arrived at suitable ground the Lugger is thrown up and flies away in all the semblance of a Hawk carrying a heavy bird, after a flight of a hundred yards or so settling on the ground. Should there be a hungry Falcon in the neighbourhood it at once flies up and probably tries to rob the Lugger, in which case its talons are caught in the nooses and both Falcons fall to the ground. Several kinds of Falcon may be caught by this device, but it is the way par excellence to catch Sakers who much prefer to rob other Hawks than work for themselves. A great deal of ground can be easily worked by the hawk-catcher who uses the "Paros" because he can keep on flying the Lugger and rely on it attracting any Falcon in the neighbourhood, whereas with a net he has first to find and mark down a bird for which the net must be especially set.

November 3.—A single Western Blossom-headed Parrakeet (*Palaeornis cyanocephalus*) seen flying very high and calling loudly. A pair of Ravens noted near my house; they are comparatively scarce in the neighbourhood of Sirsa. The same pair was seen again on several occasions during the month.

November 4.—A couple of Long-legged Buzzards (*Buteo ferox*) seen sitting lumpily on thorn trees; they allowed me to ride up and look at them from a distance of a few feet before condescending to take flight, when they settled again after going a short distance.

After dark my Falconer went to catch Blue Rock Pigeons (*Columba intermedia*) in one of the numerous old wells round about, and brought back with him, in addition to the Pigeons, a fine Barn Owl (*Strix flammea*) which he had found living in the well with the Pigeons. Its bill was suggestively bloodstained. Brought into the light of a lamp the bird was utterly dazed, and when placed on its back on the table lay there as if dead. I kept it for some time in an empty room where it seemed comfortable enough, but as it refused to eat released it.

A Pale Brown Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*) seen; also the first flight of Starlings, which became very numerous by the end of the month.

November 6.—Some Sociable Lapwings (*Chettusia gregaria*) about. A Great White Egret (*Herodias alba*) passed over my house in the evening.

November 7.—Two Short-eared Owls (*Asio accipitrinus*) flushed in a field. The Sociable Lapwings seen again, morning and evening. A Black-necked Stork (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*) seen; also a very large Buzzard and a Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*). Some Tawny Pipits (*Anthus campestris*) about.

November 9. A Western Blossom-headed Parrakeet (*Palaeornis cyanocephalus*) noted. Met with a flight of Common Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*).

November 10.—Came across a mixed flock of Storks, composed of White Stork (*Ciconia alba*), White-necked Stork (*Dissura episcopus*), White Ibis (*Ibis melanocephala*), and a single Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*).

A single specimen seen of Pallas' Fishing Eagle (*Haliaetus leucocoryphus*). I shot a male White-headed Bunting (*Emberiza stewarti*. A small flight of *Hirundo rustica* noted.

The female Koel (*Eudynamis honorata*) proves to be still in my compound, and I came across her again on the 11th and on the 22nd November; and also met another individual on the 14th November; so the statement made in last month's diary that they had all departed was not quite correct

November 12.—Noted the first flight of Imperial or Black-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles arenarius*) of the season, though a native Shikari told me he had seen some a few days ago. A Pale Brown Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*) met with. Some flocks of Eastern Stork Doves (*Columba eversmanni*) were seen flighting in the evening to a couple of large trees standing alone in cultival near a small canal. I shot a couple and when I went to pick them up a male Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) was found sitting on one of them; he left at my approach, but after I had picked it up and passed by returned to the spot and sat on the ground looking for it.

Young ready to fly in a nest of the Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*); the nest was a rough structure some 30 feet from the ground at the end of a side bough of a large Kikur tree on the canal bank.

Two incubated eggs in a nest of the Indian Ring Dove (*Turtur risorius*).

November 13. Two Black-necked Storks (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*) seen. Only four *Columba eversmanni* seen at the trees where they were last night.

To be Continued.

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British Bird Calendar.

ARRIVAL OF MIGRANTS IN ESSEX (SPRING, 1915).

April 18.—Swallow, Danbury.

,, 22.—Chiffchaff, Maldon (10 a.m.); weather dull, windless; thermometer 40 deg.

,, 22.—Blackcap, Warley Place, Brentwood (2 p.m.); weather dull, windless; thermometer 40 deg.

,, 24.—Redstart, Hazeleigh (6 p.m.); moderate N.E. wind.

,, 26.—Nightingale, Little Badlow.

Most of these species are late in their arrival, especially the Nightingale. Of twenty-two records I have of this bird, there are only two later, viz., 28-iv.-'03 and 28-iv.-'06.

April 30.—Cuckoo, Hazeleigh (11 a.m.); wind S.E., moderate. Of twenty-six previous records this is the latest by two days. G.H.R., Hazeleigh.

April 30.—Cuckoo heard here to-day, have not heard it reported before in this district. J.H.H., Ashbourne.

April 15.—Saw a number of Willow Wrens.
April 30.—Cuckoo heard here to-day. Saw first Swallow.
J.S.R., Caterham, Surrey.

May 4.—Lesser Whitethroat, Hazeleigh, 6 p.m.; strong S.E. Wind.
G.H.R., Hazeleigh.

May 1.—Saw Coot's nest containing five eggs.
May 4.—Saw first Swift here. J.S.R., Caterham, Surrey.

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Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules, see page II. of cover.

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GOLDFINCH (♂). (Miss D. E. Pithie). Cause of death, pneumonia It is due to the insanitary condition under which birds are usually kept plus the chill they are exposed to at this time of the year. If it is contagious the contagion is of a very low degree. The cause of death of SISKIN was also pneumonia. Pneumonia in other animals is usually associated with an infectious disease and is only a complication, not a disease *per se*.

ZEBRA FINCH (♀). (Mrs. Williams, Exeter). Death due to pneumonia.

Bird? (Miss Gertrude M. Hooper). No doubt death was brought about by convulsions.

GOLD-BREASTED FINCH. (Mrs. Foster, Babbacombe). Cause of death, pneumonia. In the keeping of live stock one must hope for the best but at the same time expect the worst.

WEAVER. (Geo. Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, enteritis.

GREY SINGING-FINCH. (Miss Johnson, Hastings). The cause of death of Grey Singing-finch was pneumonia. No doubt all the birds were submitted to the same cause, probably a chill, hence the same result—death.

Answered by Post—Dr. L. Lovell-Keays, S. Clarke (2).

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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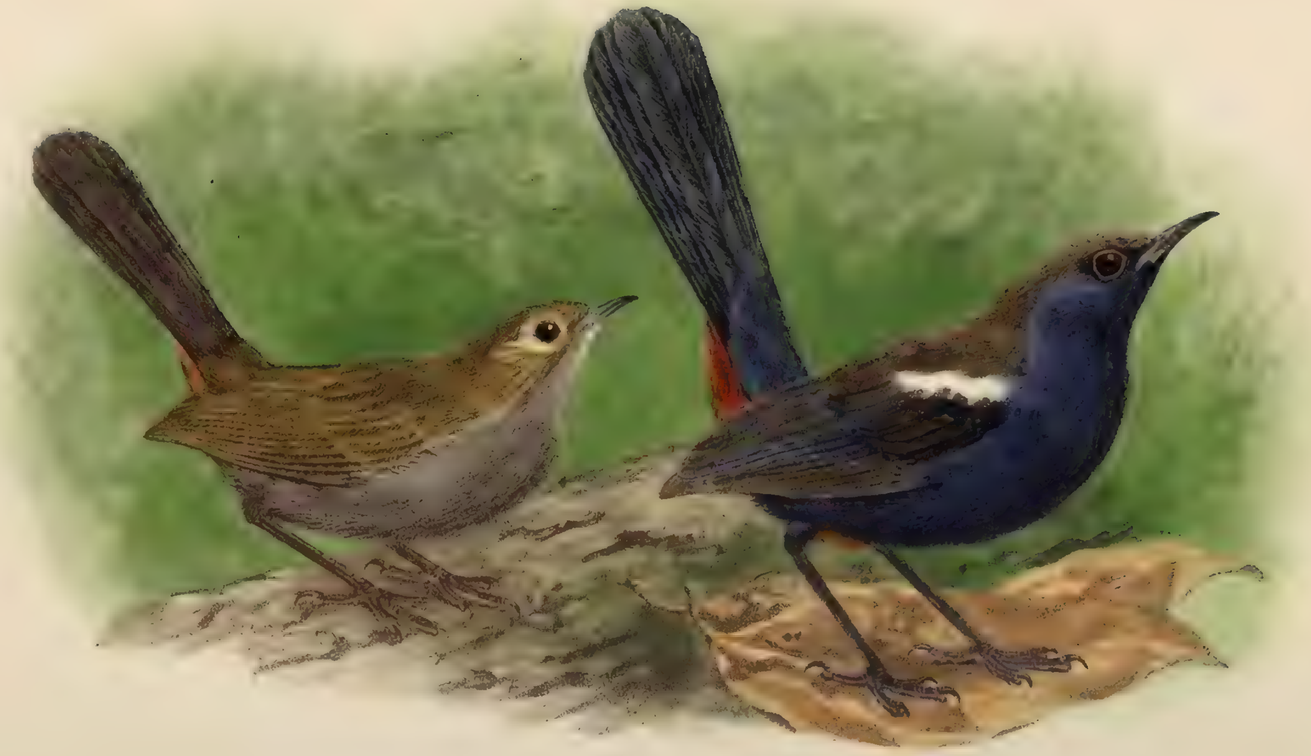
ERRATA: Page 86, line 8, for "summe" read *summer*.
Page 87, line 27, for "veritable bird of paradise, read *veritable bird paradise*.
Page 108, line 35, for "PETY'S CONURE" read PETZ'S CONURE.



BROWN-BACKED INDIAN ROBIN
Thamnobia cambaiensis.

From Life

Huth imp

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Brown-backed Indian Robin *(Thamnobia cambaiensis*, Lath).

By H. WHISTLER, I.P., M.B.O.U.

The Brown-backed Indian Robin (*Thamnobia cambaiensis*) and the Black-backed Indian Robin (*T. fulicata*) between them occupy the whole of India, from and including Ceylon to the Himalayas, in many places up to an elevation of about 6,000 feet. Strictly speaking they appear to be really two races of a single species, which meeting about Ahmednagar and the Godaveri Valley, are not very different in appearance; such difference, as there is, is well denoted by their trivial names.

The Brown-backed Robin is the Punjab form, but within the enormous area included under the political boundaries of the Punjab there is a well marked difference between the birds of the north and south. As far as I know there is no observable difference in plumage between these northern and southern birds, but they are to be distinguished by their habits; and this fact has been noted by more than one observer. The boundary appears to be roughly the Jhelum river to the east, and (I conjecture) the Indus to the west. To the north of this boundary the Indian Robin is a bird of desolate stony ravines and bare hillsides, and is comparatively seldom met with in cultivation. To the south he is the familiar bird of one's compound, nesting in the servant's quarters and the stables, or prowling in every ditch and perching on every boundary stone throughout the fields.

Although usually treated and described as a resident species the *Thamnobia cambaiensis* may be slightly migratory; for in the 2nd edition of Hume's "Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds," Vol. II., page 75, it is said to disappear almost entirely from Ambala district towards the end of October; and the same observer Captain Beavan (*loc. cit.*) considers it to be a partial migrant in another district, not in the Punjab. Also in Jhelum district, while noting the species as a permanent resident I had a slight suspicion that some individuals at least might be partial migrants.

The Indian Robin is a cheery, sprightly little bird, with a large measure of the confidence of its English namesake. It is equally at home in trees or on the ground, but perhaps prefers a roof best of all. Its most noticeable attribute is the carriage of the tail, which is held up over the body nearly at that acute angle so favoured of the Wren. As Thamnobia's tail is pronouncedly long, the effect is somewhat striking, and is accentuated by the red under-tail coverts.

The nesting site chosen resembles that of the English Robin in its infinite variety; in fact, any place that suits the latter would suit the Indian bird, and in addition the Indian bird is ready to build in bushes and in holes of trees some height from the ground. The nesting materials chosen are grass, feathers, and any similar rubbish, usually with a lining of horse hair, cow's hair or human hair. In a very large proportion of nests examined will be found a piece or two of snake's 'slough.' April to July are the only months in which I have found eggs, but I believe that in the Central and Southern Punjab the breeding season is really earlier than that.

The eggs are of a pale greenish colour (fading easily after cleaning), covered with spots or freckles of various shades of reddish brown. Instead of pale greenish the ground colour may sometimes be pinkish, pale brown,, or cream colour, but the greenish tint is the most common.

The measurement of 7 eggs gives the following results: length 18.5 to 20.7 mm.; breadth 14.5 to 15.2 mm. Average measurements 19.7 by 15.0 mm.

As an aviary bird the species would be most interesting, except that it would probably be found somewhat quarrelsome.

The following descriptions of two nests from Mr. Whistler's pen we are reprinting from "The Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society," Vol. XXIII., p. 155.—Ed.

"28th April, 1911. –C/3 slightly incubated eggs found in a nest built under a large stone balanced on two others; to the front the nest was fairly open, while at the back there was a small hole—almost a a short tunnel—used by the female as a "bolt hole" when the nest was approached from in front. The nest was very flimsy, built of coarse dry grass roots, and lined with fur, horsehair, and portions of snake's slough. Many bits of earthen cocoons were mingled with the foundations, possibly by way of binding the grass."

"15th May, 1911.—C 3 rather incubated eggs from a deep cup composed of grass, roots, etc., and lined with fine roots and horsehair. which was built under a stone behind a tuft of foliage on a steep bank, a few yards from the water's edge."

"Both nests were found in the stony nullahs by the R. Sohan which is the favourite haunt of the species near Rawal Pindi. In both the Rawal Pindi and Jhelum districts the Indian Robin is practically confined to the arid stony hills and nullahs, clothed with coarse grass and scrubby bushes, being but seldom found in gardens and cultivation which seem to be its natural habitat down country."

BY DR. L. LOVELL-KEAYS, F.Z.S.

Being asked by the Editor for a few notes on the Brown-backed Robin, I comply somewhat reluctantly, as I find Mr. Whistler, that keen and accurate observer, is giving a very full and interesting description. However a few notes on my birds, whose portraits figure on our frontispiece, may possibly prove of interest to some.

I purchased my pair of birds from Mr. Bainbridge in the winter of 1913-14. I had very little difficulty in keeping them while caged up. Their requirements were simple, viz.: a little of the best possible insectile mixture and a few mealworms each day.

In the spring of 1914 I let them out into a well-sheltered aviary. Up to then I had kept them caged separately. For the first few days the birds took but little notice of each other, but about May 12-19 I noticed they took an evident interest in rush nests, and also the cock bird would take every mealworm he could get straight to the hen and feed her till she was satisfied. Just when my hopes were raised to fever pitch and, when both birds seemed in the pink of condition, I found the hen dead on the aviary pathway. A *post mortem* examination showed acute inflammation of the ovary and there was very definite evidence of active ovulation. This was a sad blow to me and seemed to be an end to all my hopes. However, Mr. Seth-Smith of the Zoological Society of London, kindly lent me their odd hen and I turned the two birds loose into another aviary, which they shared with two pairs of Gouldian Finches, a pair of Hooded Siskins, some Bearded Reedlings, and last but not least, a pair of Australian Water-Rails. For a few days all went well; the cock was busy prospecting but I found the hen looked a little puffy, but still, not enough to bother about, I thought. At 10 a.m. one fatal morning she was as usual, at 11 a.m. she was a little corpse and by the feathers on the ground there had evidently been a fight. I suspected the Rail but could not exonerate the cock bird. The Rails went by their namesake to Mr. Cross, of Liverpool, and the Robin went to the Zoo. Thus ended my attempt at breeding this species.

At the same time I feel quite sure that given an element of luck (an absolute *sine qua non* in all bird breeding) one ought to and could succeed. At any rate if Major Perreau will kindly get me another pair I will make the attempt.

Brown-backs are most interesting, fascinating, and quite fearless birds. Full of character and to my mind of great beauty, both in general outline and colour. You must not ask the non-lover of birds to admire them, for to him, or her, they are dull brown birds. Then to him, or her, a Chaffinch is almost ugly, a Blue-Tit merely one of those birds that picks out the apple buds. To such an one I would quote from Pope's lines:

> "All nature is but art unknown to thee;"

As a matter of fact the bird is, as our illustration so beautifully bears out, an exquisite harmony of soft browns, dark purples, with a beauty spot of pure white on each wing. And what a tail to captivate the hen! A tail that speaks of love, of hate, of marvellous grace, of jaunty mien, and yet withal, of pride and self-respect. The keynote to our Robin is his tail.

The flight is unlike that of any other bird—swift, accurate, and absolutely intentional. Our Robin knows where he is going to when he starts. He never has two minds. He never fails to alight with the ease and grace of a high trapeze performer. "Well let down at the hocks" with perfectly "sloping pasterns" he reminds one of a thoroughbred and that is just the term that describes him. He lacks the familiarity of our Redbreast, and yet is quite as fearless. He is quite as nimble on foot as he is agile in the air. He certainly made our Aldermanic Gouldians look like common hacks. I remember he has a song but alas! for human frailty it is lost to me and yet I remember I was rather pleased with it!

I mourn my Robins, but after losing the hen, I felt it my duty to send the Zoo the cock and with the poet I sing.

> "I could not love thee, dear, so much,
> Loved I not honour more."

With these few remarks I will wait till my ship comes home, and with it Major Perreau and another pair of Brown-backed Robins. Then with more experience and better luck I may, perhaps, succeed in not only keeping, but in breeding these charming softbills.

BY SEC. LIEUT. W. A. BAINBRIDGE, A.S.C.

I had a pair of these fascinating birds in my possession for some months and most delightful birds I found them.

They were inclined to be rather shy and retiring, but not unpleasantly so, and as long as one kept still, a sight of them flitting from branch to branch could generally be relied on.

The cock bird, of course, is the one at which one naturally looks when they make their appearance, but his dull-coloured mate is by no means to be despised, as her movements and forn are distinctly graceful. To see her alight on some bare object, fan her tail, and raise it so that it almost touches her head, is a delightful sight. In the cock these movements are more pronounced, or appear to be, but that may be because his scheme of colour attracts one's eye to him instinctively.

They are rather restless in an aviary, rarely still for long, and always this fascinating movement of the tail, which gives the bird an appearance of great vivacity.

As to their demeanour in an aviary I always found them perfectly quiet and amiable, both with one another and with other birds but I only kept seed-eaters with them including the small Waxbills.

When about parting with them I unfortunately caged the pair in a small cage to send by train. Within an hour the cock had so mauled the hen, that she died next day, but in an aviary they were quite peaceful.

One attempt at building a nest was made, but it came to nothing, and soon after that I sold the cock and a spare hen which I had, sending them away in separate cages.

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Nesting Results for 1914 at Park Lodge Aviaries

By Dr. L. Lovell-Keays, F.Z.S.

The Editor has asked me for my breeding results, and this must be my excuse for rushing into print. I fear the results are really "nothing to write home about," but I can only hope they will interest my readers as much, or even half as much as they interested me when they occurred.

I am including one or two late 1913 results in my list, as I only commenced serious aviculture then, and the results have never been recorded or noted.

First I will record in tabular form the species bred, in the order in which they occurred, and begin with the smaller birds, such as *Fringillidae, Ploceidae,* etc., afterwards dealing with the larger Psittaci.

Species which Fully Reared Young:	*Approximate Number Reared.*
Diamond Finch (*Steganopleura guttata*)	2
Bib Finch (*Spermestes nana*)	4
Zebra Finch (*Taeniopygia castanotis*)	12—14
Magpie Mannikin (*Amauresthes fringilloides*)	8—10
Mexican Rosefinch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)	7— 8
Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria cucullata*)	2
Bronze-winged Mannikin (*Spermestes cucullata*)	6
Twite (*Acanthus flavirostris*)	8
Cuban Finch (*Phonipara canora*)	12
Green Cardinal (*Gubernatrix cristata*)	5
Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californica*)	4
Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*)	3
Cordon Bleu (*Estrilda phoenicotis*)	8—10
Red Avadavats (*Sporaeginthus amandava*)	2
Firefinch (*Lagonosticta minima*)	7— 8
Green Avadavats (*Stictospiza formosa*)	2
Hybrid Long-tail × Masked Grassfinch (*Poephila acuticauda × P. personata*)	2

PARRAKEETS, ETC.:

Red Rosella Parrakeet (*Platycercus eximius*)	8
Cockateel (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*)	8—10
Budgerigar, Yellow and Green (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)	A flock.
Black-cheeked Lovebird (*Agapornis nigrigenis*)	4
Peach-faced Lovebird (*A. roseicollis*)	5
Madagascar Lovebird (*A. cana*)	2
Passerine Parrakeet (*Psittacula passerina*)	3
Cactus Conure (*Conurus cactorum*)	3
All-Green Parrakeet (*Brotogerys tirica*)	4
Red-rump Parrakeet (*Psephotus haematonotus*)	4

SPECIES HATCHED BUT NOT FULLY REARED:	*Approximate Age at Death.*
Bearded Reedling (*Panurus biarmicus*)	14—16 days.
Parson Finch (*Poephila cincta*)	5 days.
African Zosterops (*Zosterops viridis*)	8 days.
Blue Sugarbird (*Dacnis cayana*)	3—4 days.
Alario Finch (*Alario alario*)	Fully fledged.
Long-tailed Grassfinch (*Poephila acuticauda*)	5 days.
Black-gorgeted Jay-Thrush (*Garrulax pectoralis*)	14 days.
Gouldian Finch (*Poephila gouldiae*)	10 days.
Orange-breasted Waxbill (*Sporaeginthus subflavus*)	10 days

SPECIES WHICH NESTED AND LAID, BUT DID NOT HATCH OUT:

Sydney Waxbill (*Aeginthus temporalis*).
Melba Finch (*Pytelia melba*).
Quail Finch (*Ortygospiza polyzona*).
Pintail Parrot-Finch (*Erythrura prasina*).
Jacarini Finch (*Volatinia jacarini*).
Guiana Lovebird (*Psittacula guianensis*).
Masked Grassfinch (*Poephila personata*).
Ruficauda Finch (*Bathilda ruficauda*).

I need hardly say there were others, of which I made no note or which escaped observation, such as Scaly-crowned Finches (*Sporopipes squamifrons*) and Lavender Finches (*Lagonosticta caerulescens*), etc.

This practically completes my list, and one will notice that the first list contains 16 distinct species, with one hybrid, fully reared; the second list 10 distinct species. This represents the sum total of my avicultural successes. In the hatched but not fully reared section we find nine species, whereas in the last section there are but eight species. So that in the aviaries 43 different species attempted to reproduce their kind, or roughly speaking 50 per cent. of the species kept.

To a beginner this is, of course, highly gratifying, and yet, perusal of these figures, or rather facts, leaves many a heart-ache. It is the "all-but's" that, perhaps, try the patience and enthusiasm of aviculturists far more than the "make-no-attempts." I keep my "all-but's" in a spirit bottle where they mock me as I go to my daily work.

I propose to note roughly the various species mentioned and make a few passing remarks, such as one gets so weary of in election contests, and headed "Why I succeeded" or, on the contrary, "Why I failed."

The first species on my list is the **Diamond Finch**, which rejoices in several aliases (Diamond Sparrow, Spotted-sided Finch, etc.), but there is only one Diamond Finch, with its bright crimson rump, white breast, spotted sides or flanks, and the broad black band round its portly chest. This species appeals to me very much. Their strong rapid flight, their indefatigable nesting operations, their greed for feathers, their queer love-antics, to say nothing of the seductive yet scolding call of the cock bird, bidding the hen to come and look after the house and children. I have had several pairs and they are all inclined to bully, especially in the nesting season (which is very nearly perennial) and keep the inmates of the aviary from getting over-fat and lazy. It is, I think, unwise to have more than one pair in the same aviary. They seem to always choose a corner nesting site, and prefer a rush nest to any other. They never tire of adding bricks and mortar to their abode, but are good parents on the whole. The eggs are white and by no means large for the size of the bird. The young when they leave the nest are of a grey colour rather than a black, and have no distinct white spots; the beak is blackish. I feel convinced they require greenfood and probably live-food to rear their young; they eat flowering grasses with evident gusto. I reared two of this species and finally disposed of both. The sexes are hard to distinguish, but are easier to pick out in the aviary and in certain lights, when the beak is seen to be quite different in the two sexes, especially during the the breeding season. In the cock the beak is much more of a magenta than in the hen. The call notes of the two birds are absolutely distinct. The cock's call note being a harsh raucous scolding sound, and yet oddly enough not altogether unpleasant. The hen has a high pitched "tweet," repeated at intervals. The cock alone possesses a love-dance, to which the hen appears not only indifferent, but at times supremely contemptuous, and, she will take the straw from his beak and throw it away with a look that clearly says, "Don't make such a ridiculous ass of yourself."

I do not consider them to be very hardy, I have had several losses from pneumonia, but they certainly do not require coddling. It is sufficient to make sure that they are housed every night from November till April at least. They require nothing more.

With these remarks (all too lengthy I fear, Mr. Editor) I will pass on to the next species on our list, viz.:

THE BIB FINCH. Of all the impertinent little busybodies, with an opinion of themselves which should be the envy of a cabinet minister, commend me to Bib Finches. They instinctively recall Gulliver's travels in Lilliput. Their ridiculous little swaggering song, and the absurd way they pounce on all the big feathers and which, like certain high-minded county officials falling over their swords, they seem quite unable to tackle. They are not very hardy. I lost four out of six to my regret, for I am very fond of my fearless little Bib Finches. They, too, prefer a rush nest, and what they lack in inches make up in sheer effrontery and keep all marauders off their home. The young are quaint little beasties and, if my memory serves me aright, have no bibs, but are a homogeneous brown. The little white egg is, of course, about the size of a tear drop. I have no doubt Mr. and Mrs. Bib think they are as big as Ostrich eggs and much more beautiful. If Bib Finches were as big as Sparrows they would be a nuisance; fortunately they are not and nobody in the aviary takes them really seriously, which annoys them intensely. They are very interfering, and are sometimes called the African Parson Finch. The connection may be a coincidence, I give it for what it is worth. If you have never kept Bib Finches you can have no idea what amusement you can get out of so tiny and independent a bird. Blue pencil looms in the distance, so I will take number three on our list, and that brings us to:

ZEBRA FINCHES and also the first of our illustrations —"The Nest of the Zebra Finch." It is not always realised that Zebra Finches are Grass-finches, and as such have large beaks, a very high idea of their own importance and weave their nests. Zebra Finches are the "gutter-snipes"—the Sparrows of the aviary and utterly unabashed by the splendour or high breeding of the other inmates. On being turned into an aviary they at once proceed to the Hamptons of the place and ask for orders to view Park Lane and Grosvenor Square. On arriving there and being at times refused admission, they "go for" and "out" the lonely janitor, and proceed to shout

Photo by E. O. Page.

Nest of Zebra Finch.

in a cockney dialect about "them big 'ouses being draughty and un'ealthy." They push off until they find some meek and mild householder, and, after casting a covetous eye on the plush curtains and Turkey carpets of the house decide that this is the very house for them. Should the owner be away and return somewhat suddenly our friends modify their tactics according to the bloodthirstiness of the rightful owner. If he be overstrong they decide on another or unfurnished house; if he be weak they pour out their views on Socialism. Having made up their minds at length (that is, after upsetting every other occupant of the aviary) they proceed to live up to their reputation as plebeians by raising large families, which they are apt to desert and leave on the rates. Our friend is nothing if not a moonlight-flitter, and never pays his way. Still if one has a sense of humour one will also keep Zebra Finches. They are very droll in their manners and customs, and very prolific. But their little lives are none too long. I suspect they have some secret vice. At any rate they die off in quite an unaccountable way. If it were not so we would soon have hundreds in a good sized aviary. I won't waste time, ink and paper describing them, their eggs, or young. The nest in the illustration was very cleverly built, and most of the material used was very heavy for so small a bird. This pair of Zebras always preferred to build their own nest, which in my experience is peculiar. The nest was very strong and beautifully constructed, but young were not reared in it. I have noticed in Zebra Finches that there is always an enormous preponderance of cocks in an aviary. The hens die off rather freely and more cocks are reared than hens. This year, 1915, there has been a very great dearth of hens. Why I can't say. I now pass on to the next species, viz.:

MAGPIE MANNIKINS: Very few remarks will suffice for these. They are certainly handsome in their black and white coats, but like people who always wear black and white most uninteresting. They are simply poor relations of the Grassfinches and multiply accordingly. I have found them quite inoffensive and deadly dull. They are very wild and never get to know you, but flee before your face the moment you enter the aviary. They make good and devoted parents and generally nest high up. They have no character good or bad.

The Mexican Rosefinch: This is a dull-coloured bird to the unobserving and unappreciative eye, but it possesses the form of a steeplechaser. A long narrow body with head well set on, and a beak built for business. The cock has a sweetly pretty little song, nothing much to boast about, but then our Rosefinch is no aristocrat. He comes from a highly respected family, than which one can say nothing more complimentary and yet more damning.

They are ready breeders and bring off two or three at a time. The children are obviously honest but stupid folk, quite neatly turned out and with a stray bit of down on the head, very suggestive of the sausage-shaped curl that the better class children affect at the Sunday school. The cock bird sports a little colour on head and breast, and is a most devoted and attentive husband, but hopelessly middle class. At one time I thought they were without fault, but I have discovered they are shameless vandalists. They write their names on every bush and shrub in the aviary; and looking at the bird you could well believe they would. They are absolutely hardy and keep very much to themselves. They are thoroughly "cliquey." I reared seven or eight. The cocks do not all come into colour even up to May, the year following their arrival on an already over-crowded globe. The distinctions are the song and, of course, when present, the rose-coloured mantle and breast. All cocks show a little reddish tinge their first season, some in the first autumn. We now come to quite a different type of bird, viz.:

The Red-crested Cardinal: This species has a bad reputation for bullying, but I have not found them so. I must say, however, that they took a very evident dislike to a Black Tanager and finally harried him to death. But then most birds dislike black birds, for with birds the colour question is very acute. Cardinals certainly live up to their name as regards importance. The "red hat" is a sign of distinction and well they know it. I was fortunate in getting a true pair. The distinction in the sexes is very slight and confined almost to the beak. In the cock the culmen or arch of the beak is larger. He has a pleasant song even if a little monotonous. Altogether, except for their foliage-destroying propensities which are great, they are desirable aviary birds and I would trust them with anything. *En passant* I would point out that what upsets birds, and especially nesting birds chiefly, is similarity of colour far more than similarity of species; size is of little moment. I have come to the conclusion that the colour sense of birds is not very discriminating. Red-crested Cardinal are on the whole very hardy, but develop peculiar ailments, and in that respect resemble the Buntings, to which they are, of course, closely related. Why the *Emberizinae* should develop fits and vertigo I don't know but they do, at least in my experience.

My pair of Cardinals at length made up their minds to start raising a family and they chose an evergreen (*Retinospora*) for the nesting site. They were not very successful and for weeks they endeavoured to make a nest that would retain the eggs. They used sticks to make the foundation, and I used to help them as much as I could. But apparently if I am descended from the lower animals, it is certain I had no avian instincts imparted, as I found it most difficult. However, after many fruitless attempts I procured a forsaken Thrush's nest, and pushed that into the foundation. They quickly took to it and two eggs were deposited therein. To the best of my recollection they were like a Blackbird's, with a bluish-green body colour, richly suffused with specklings and mottlings of dirty brown; but like Humpty Dumpty the nest had a great fall and the eggs got smashed. However, nothing daunted I replaced the nest and tied the boughs round so that it could not fall down again. My friendly Cardinals were much interested in my efforts, and did what they could to help me. Two more eggs were laid and both birds sat patiently, in turns, for 12-14 days, when I noticed they began to feed the young. The young were almost entirely reared on mealworms, and small earthworms; whether they had regurgitated seed I can't say. I never saw the process. The young birds grew very rapidly, but did not leave the nest for fully three weeks, and were then a dirty colour all over, with a dull dirty brick-red mark on the head. The parents tended them for another two or three weeks, the young gradually learning to fend for themselves. In the autumn the young birds lose their dirty appearance and gradually assume the distinctive grey and white markings, but the crest is not that brilliantly pure scarlet for the first twelve months. It gradually changes by the arrival of scarlet feathers replacing the brick-red ones. The young cocks soon begin to sing. I unfortunately lost one young one from pneumonia, and the hen bird developed vertigo and paralysis of the legs, although she could fly perfectly and looked fit. When life became a burden to her I brought her indoors, treated her medically, but all of no avail. One morning I took her from the cage—she was not an atom frightened wrapped her tenderly in a cloth and sent her to the Never-never-land.

She was a handsome bird and it upset me horribly having to do it, but I am sure it was kind. Now, I have two lonely cocks and no hen. Both cocks sing their loudest as if to call from the great woods, near by, a mate; but they call in vain; for sing they never so sweetly, no hen is forthcoming and it looks as if they, too, will have to reach the Never-never-land before there is an echoing answer to love's old sweet song.

The theme of the widowed one is "Memory, fond memory, when all things fade we fly to thee," and with that he mingles that heartbroken beseeching prayer:

"But O! for the touch of a vanish'd hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still."

Thus he sings on, a pathetic little figure, expectant, waiting and longing, but like a true Cardinal, proud, lonely and dignified.

To be continued.

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Good and Bad Points in My Aviaries—Failures and their Lessons.

By Wm. Shore-Baily.

Continued from page 123.

The next spring I still further increased my accommodation by putting yet another aviary up and on a still larger scale, viz.: 70ft. x 40ft. x 8ft. high; this height I consider the best for all except the very largest birds. A small shelter was erected at one end. I planted this enclosure with the usual shrubs and plants, and also sowed a good portion of it with wheat. A pond at one end fed from the stream keeps

1. Nest and Eggs of Cinnamon Tree Sparrow in a Log in No. 2 Aviary.
2. Nest and Eggs of Cape Sparrow in a hole in wall in No. 3 Aviary.

Photos by W. Shore-Baily.

the birds supplied with clean water. Several species brought off young here the first season, my greatest success being the rearing of a troop of Squamata × Californian Quail hybrids, for which the Societè Nationale d'Acclimatation of Paris awarded me their medal and diploma.

All the birds did well here; the wheat grew to a good height and was much liked when half ripe; a bed of artichokes which grew to reach the wire roof, made fine cover and also a happy hunting-ground for the small insect-eaters. The aviary had one drawback, viz.: the utter impossibility of catching, in anything like a reasonable time, any bird that happened to be wanted. Pursuing them with a landing net* was of course quite hopeless, and trapping was the only way; this meant practically starving all the occupants for the sake of catching one or two, a procedure quite fatal to any that happened to be nesting.

The next season I decided to cut the above aviary up into three divisions, and the one previously described into two. My last year's results as reported in "B.N." quite justify, I think, the alteration. I may say that I have a shallow cement-pond in each aviary, through which a small stream of water constantly passes, this is a great addition. In the winter the doors in the divisions are thrown open, giving all the birds wintering therein access to the shelter. In the breeding season three of these enclosures have no inside shelter, but I cannot see that the birds suffer in any way.

In the matter of stocking aviaries, there is much to be learnt—certain birds will agree together and others will not; then again individual birds vary considerably in their temper and disposition. Some aviculturists find certain species agreeing well together in their aviaries, whilst others with the same species under exactly similar conditions have had a lot of trouble. For instance, for three years I have kept a breeding pair of Rosella Parrakeets with a lot of small Finches, etc., and up to this last season all has gone well, but this summer I found a cock Gouldian Finch with his leg badly bitten; I think the culprit was one of the young Rosellas, five of which were flying in the aviary at the time. Gouldian Finches are so lethargic that they will not get out of danger like other Finches—I may say that I snipped off the Gouldian's broken leg with my scissors and he now hops about on one leg looking as handsome as ever. Of other Parrakeets: Mealy Rosellas, Blue-bonnets, and Red-rumps are among the most quarrelsome, but in my experience they do not interfere with Lovebirds, possibly because they cannot catch them; they also leave Alexandrine Parrakeets alone, but drive the smaller Ring-necked and the Moustache Parrakeets unmercifully. Of Lovebirds, Budgerigars are dangerous with Finches and Canaries, but I have, so far as I know, lost no birds through either Black-cheeked, Madagascar or Blue-winged Lovebirds. Another bird that is not always safe with others is the Californian Quail; I have never known them to molest Finches, but they will go for other Quail and Doves. Last year my cock Quail killed

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* Birds can usually be caught with a flue-net in a reasonable time, even in the largest aviaries.—Ed.

Photo by W. Shore-Baily.

Nest of White-cheeked Crested Quail in No. 2 Aviary.

a hen Necklaced Dove, that I thoughtlessly introduced into his breeding quarters, and the same bird nearly killed a cock Bronze-neck Dove, although in this case I am bound to admit that the latter was the aggressor; in fact he led the Quail a "dog's life" for a couple of months before the latter was able to master him. Doves are generally, but not always, very quarrelsome with their own kind. I have found it impossible to keep two breeding pairs of Diamond Doves in the same enclosure, and these are, I think, the least pugnacious of all Doves. I like to have a pair of this pretty species in each aviary. As a rule the larger Doves take no notice of them, but in one case last summer a pair of Necklace Doves attacked and nearly killed a pair. It is very important with all Doves to see that the young are removed as soon as they can fend for themselves, as should their parents go to nest again, they are very likely to peck them to death. The large Weavers are also occasionally troublesome with other birds, more especially by frightening them when nesting. I have never had one actually commit murder in my aviaries, but I heard only last week of one which in an Isle of Wight aviary had killed six or seven smaller Weavers. I find Weavers rather destructive to plant life, as besides pulling up anything green which they consider useful for nest building, they have a habit of nipping off the leaves of privet, etc.

In stocking aviaries I think the best results are attained by making the series in each enclosure as varied as possible, and I am giving a list of the species placed for breeding in each of mine, as I think this may be of interest at any rate to beginners in aviculture. Of course, if, after all, certain of the birds will not agree with their fellow captives, they must be separated or the end will be tragic.

To be continued.

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My Little Owls *(Athene noctua).*

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

Of the four birds which owe to artificial introduction by human agency their present status as well-established British species, the latest addition, the Little Owl, has certainly made most enemies.

It has been denounced for killing young Pheasants and

Partridges; for decimating the choicest singing birds of the countryside; for being, in captivity, fierce and untamable.

Against the first of these charges there is, I fear, no defence; the evidence of guilt is only too well established.

In regard to the second, the case is different. The Little Owl is said to be more destructive to bird life than any other species, because it hunts so much by day. This is a very weak argument. Like all its congeners, *Athene noctua* is smart enough in dropping from a height upon prey almost directly beneath it, but its rounded wings, and slow slipping flight make it quite unable to overtake its quarry in fair chase like a Sparrow-hawk, nor has it any skill in conducting a pursuit through thick undergrowth. The fact that it is active and takes much of its food at a time when other birds have also got their wits about them, does not make it a more deadly enemy than its allies, but rather the reverse. The Brown and White Owls, which normally do all their hunting at a time when their feathered victims are asleep or helpless in the darkness, are as I know from sad experience of the havoc they have wrought among my foreign birds, infinitely more destructive As a matter of fact 80 per cent. of the small bird "kills" of the Little Owl that I have examined, have consisted of young Starlings and young Blackbirds, and Thrushes (all species whose numbers can well afford some check) which have met their fate before they were fully fledged and independent of their parents. In reality the Little Owl is *fondest* of insects although it must be admitted that it seldom obtains enough to entirely satisfy its wants.

That it is not untameable I know well -almost *too* well perhaps, for although it is now many years since the death of my first little Owl "Peeps," and I have had many charming and interesting pets since, I have yet to meet his equal for intelligence and still mourn a companion who I feel can never be quite replaced.

Peeps was brought to us by a keeper one day in June, having been discovered lying on the ground, evidently in a bad way. After an unsuccessful attempt had been made to feed him he had been put into a flannel-lined box where I found him on my return a pathetic little bundle of soft mottled feathers, to which traces of baby down still clung. His eyes were closed and when I picked him up he did not open them, but toppled weakly forward on his breast, and lay motionless, apparently nearly dead. I realized that something must be done and done quickly, so I got some raw meat and a few mealworms and renewed the attempt at forcible feeding. Owls belong to the class of birds (of which Parrots are the antithesis) which are comparatively easy to cram, so by using a few drops of water to lubricate the way, I got down enough to revive him into opening one eye for a few seconds. Still, I was surprised to find him alive next morning and, if anything, a trifle better. I again started to cram him and after a little his appetite began to revive and he took morsels from my finger of his own accord. But his recovery was a slow process; not only was he terribly emaciated from lack of food, but he had also caught a bad cold which made him wheeze incessantly and cough at the slightest exertion. For several days he was unable to stand up and a great part of his food had still to be administered by force; he had rather a curious habit of refusing to start feeding until quite a large meal had been thrust down his throat; then he would often begin to eat voluntarily, the pangs of hunger being apparently stimulated just when one would have expected them to have been satisfied. His diet at this time consisted entirely of raw meat and mealworms, as I had read that it was wrong to give 'casting' to young Owls, advice, the wisdom of which I am not prepared to endorse. At night I used to wrap "Peeps" in thick flannel and he would snuggle under his bedclothes in evident appreciation of their warmth.

By degrees, however, he grew stronger, cramming became unnecessary and he began to run about his cage and and take an interest in life once more. He was quite fearless with me and soon learned to hop from his cage on to my arm, where he would sit for a long time looking about him, picking playfully at my sleeve and occasionally flapping his wings. But although at the end of a month he was quite bright and strong, his cold had developed into chronic bronchitis and for a long time I was at my wits end to cure him. Medicine was of little use. For the first six months of his life he never drank, so it could not be put in his water. If offered on a piece of meat he refused to touch it; if disguised in capsule he threw up the entire contents of his stomach as soon as the capsule began to dissolve. It was not till the beginning of winter that he entirely recovered after being kept for some weeks in a warm room at an even temperature with a fire going night and day.

But his ailment, while it lasted, was in reality more distressing to me than to him, as it never affected either his spirits or his general health.

After a time he was allowed to fly about the room, which was a great joy to him. He was as inquisitive and playful as a monkey, though never in the least destructive. Every object had to be thoroughly examined and every corner carefully explored. Small articles were picked up in his foot, Parrot-fashion, and gently nibbled to test their consistency. A quill pen or a large feather was a source of much amusement and Peeps would play mouse with it, pouncing on it from a distance and then biting the captured prey.

Another kind of play in which he indulged was common to all the little owls I have kept. Selecting a piece of carpet or hearthrug (he was very particular about the texture of his playground), he would ruffle his feathers, tower his wings, and make one or two little runs forward in a stooping position; then he would throw himself on his breast and with feathers still erect and wings spread, push himself along the ground with his feet, stopping occasionally to seize a bit of carpet in his beak and shake it vigorously. After a few seconds he would get up and make another rush in a different direction, or perhaps pounce on an imaginary mouse, and begin the shoving and worrying game over again. Very often he would keep his wings spread nearly the whole time he was playing, the effect being very quaint and pretty.

When in exceptionally high spirits Peeps would fly backwards and forwards across the room, making stoops at my head as he passed, but on these occasions he never actually touched me with his claws—it was all in pure fun.

I have already noticed that Peeps was very observant, and, as all Owls do, he watched people's *faces* carefully.. A most amusing thing occurred one evening when I happened to put on a pair of spectacles while reading a book—I did not at that time often have to wear glasses, and it chanced to be the first occasion on which I had done so in Peeps' presence Noticing after a few minutes that my companion was unusually quiet, I looked up to see him sitting motionless in front of me, gazing at my face with an expression of utter astonishment; it took him quite a long time to recover from the shock caused by his master's unusual appearance!

Peeps was always careful to hide in the corners of his cage any part of his meal that he was unable to finish on the spot. While he was thus occupied he strongly objected to being watched and would cast angry glances at me over his shoulder and snap his beak if he thought I was taking any interest in his proceedings. If I attempted to touch his treasures, he flew at me in a fury, swearing angrily and giving my fingers unpleasantly sharp nips, though even when he tried his hardest his beak was not quite strong enough to break the skin. Very often he made his *cachés* in some part of the room, generally under the bed, where naturally they were not allowed to remain. He never forgot the place, and, on being let out several hours later, would go straight to it and exhibit the most comical distress and annoyance at finding it empty. He would look all round him in a puzzled way and then take a few steps backward like a person who has dropped something and is afraid he has walked over it. Even after starting to move away in despair, he would often run back for one more look, his expression saying more plainly than words "I *know* I left it here; surely I *must* have overlooked it somehow."

Peeps loved having the top of his head stroked and scratched, and would close his eyes with an expression of blissful content as long as these ministrations continued; but any attempt to touch his breast or wings caused him great displeasure, and he was apt to show it in no uncertain way. Peeps' bites were, I am afraid, sometimes bestowed on very trifling provocation and indeed on occasions when the annoyance ought to have been wholly on my side. But I found that even the gentlest correction did more harm than good, for he was a fiery little person who would never confess himself beaten and if I had persisted in my efforts at discipline I should only have made him really vicious and lost his confidence. So I submitted meekly when I was scratched and and bitten for removing the half-eaten Sparrow from under my bed and when, having stroked an inch too low behind the downy, upturned head, the little greenish beak turned swiftly and punished my offending finger. But Peeps was not always in a bad temper and anxious to resent liberties and when in a good temper he was adorable. When he had recovered from his bronchitis, I thought it advisable to introduce him to the pleasures of the bath. A dish of water had no attractions for him, so I began by gently sprinkling him from a basin. He rather liked the sensation, spread his wings, and lay down on his breast with every feather ruffled to its fullest extent. Thus he remained until well soaked, when he got up and retired to shake and dry himself. But although he enjoyed an occasional wetting he was never diligent in his ablutions and would run away if I attempted to sprinkle him oftener than about once a month.

To be continued.

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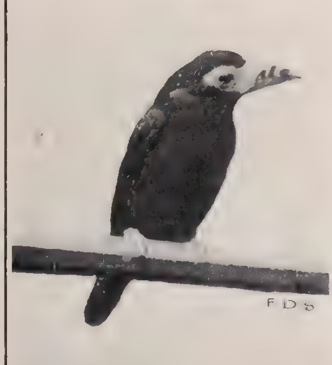
Toucans and Toucanettes.

By F. Dawson-Smith.

To those who like to keep unusual birds of striking colour and shape, perhaps a few notes on the Toucan family (*Rhamphastidae*) may be of interest. These birds, according to my experience, are by no means difficult to keep in good condition and, in addition, they quickly become tame and confiding. If the Toucan should be considered by some aviculturists to be a trifle too large for their aviary, I would recommend the Spotted-billed Toucanette (*Selenidera maculirostris*), a quaint little fellow who will certainly give much pleasure to its owner. The male roughly described is coloured as follows: Above dark green; head, neck, and breast, steel black, a broad yellow stripe of feathers from the bill below



Spot-billed Toucanette.

the eye over the ear-coverts ; abdomen greenish : flanks orange ; thighs brown ; under tail-coverts scarlet ; bill greenish yellow with broad bends and transverse blotches on upper mandible, from which the bird gets its name.

The female is a shade smaller and chestnut instead of black, on the head, neck, and breast, and the streak on the ear coverts is green.

This species hails from South Eastern Brazil and, like all the Toucans, shews to the greatest advantage on the perch. At the same time I must add that the Toucanette can hop quickly enough on the ground when it espies something "extra special" in the way of food.

A pair of these birds nested at the Regent's Park Zoo some time ago, as recorded in "Bird Notes" at the time, a fact which shews they thrive in captivity. This species was the first member of the Toucan family that I possessed, and I found it the tamest of the three varieties that have occupied my aviaries up to the present. She (it was a solitary female) arrived one June morning and quite unconcernedly made herself at home in her new sphere at once. I had always understood that Toucans were omnivorous, but mine have not proved so by any means. Fruit is the staple article of diet, bananas, gooseberries, and cherries being greatly appreciated. The cherries should have the stone removed before giving to the bird. Each morning, as I approached the aviary, Miss Toucanette grew very excited, flying from perch to perch, and would place her head on one side, looking at me with bright, expectant eyes as much as to say "Now, then, hurry up with those berries!" The moment I entered her abode she would fly down and quietly remove the fruit from my hand. Another game which gave her much pleasure, was for me to place some stoned cherries in my pocket, and stroll casually about the aviary. It was not long before that big beak was in my pocket and a cherry had disappeared. Cherries and gooseberries were always swallowed whole, and with a curious jerk back of the head as if tossing the morsel down the throat. In addition to fruit, bread and milk was partaken of freely. This diet was evidently beneficial as the bird lived entirely on it, and was kept in an unheated outdoor aviary from June until October. I sometimes placed soaked dog biscuit and a little mashed potato, but these were eaten sparingly. Insect food and meal worms were always rejected. To the best of my belief my Toucanette never swallowed a single mealworm. These birds are very quiet in the aviary, and do not bully or maltreat their companions. Landrails, Golden Orioles, Spectacled Thrushes and Mexican Jays occupied the same aviary and the Toucanette was friendly with all. She and a Mexican Jay were particularly fond of each other. They would sit side by side on a perch, and the jay would actually preen his large-billed companion's feathers. These large bills, be it said, are quite light, and can do no harm to one's fingers, indeed, my bird never attempted to bite. The photo shews her in an expectant attitude. I have painted out the background in order to shew up the outlines of the body. The derivation of its name will be patent when the photo is studied as the "spots" on the bill are clearly shewn. It was impossible to obtain a snapshot of any of my Toucans when roosting, as they bury their beaks in the feathers on the back and turn their tails stiffly upwards and slanting over the back. A Toucan is at all times a quaint fellow, but he is never so comical as when the evening approaches and he makes ready for slumber.

A well-known species is the Green-billed Toucan (*Rhamphastos dicolorus*) a large and brilliantly coloured bird. As the name denotes the bill is green, general colour black ; cheeks, throat and breast pale yellow with a central orange patch ; upper half of abdomen and upper tail coverts scarlet. This is a large bird and of extremely striking appearance. Mine have proved easy to keep, feeding on the same food as the Toucanette. They are rather noisy birds,

Green-billed Toucan.

especially when excited, when they keep up an incessant cry exactly resembling the long-drawn out "B-a-a-a !" of a stray sheep.

All Toucans require plenty of room as they are active birds, constantly in motion, flying from perch to perch. A pan of water is a necessity as they are keen on bathing. These two birds the Spotted Billed Toucanette and the Green-Billed Toucan are the kinds most easily obtained, and I can confidently recommend them to anyone with a taste for quaint pets. Mine have been most attractive, amusing, and interesting and both species won much admiration and affection from everybody. Personally, of the two, my favourite is the Toucanette, a quiet, inoffensive, confiding and wholly delightful pet in an aviary filled with other charming and brilliantly coloured birds.

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Editorial.

BREEDING RECORDS: Since our list was published the following species have been bred, or were omitted when the list was compiled.

SPECIES:

CRACIDAE.
- Guan, Lesser Grey-headed (*Ortalis vetula*).

PHASIANIDAE.
- Jungle-Fowl, Red (*Gallus gallus*).
- Pheasant, Nepal Kaleege- (*Gennaeus leucomelanus*).

LARIDAE.
- Gull, Dominican (*Larus dominicanus*).

COLUMBIDAE.
- Dove, Cape or Masked (*Oena capensis*).

PSITTACI.
- Conure, Cactus (*Conurus cactorum*).
- Parrakeet, All-Green (*Brotogerys tirica*).

MUSCICAPIDAE.
- Flycatcher, Spotted (*Muscicapa grisola*).

TURDIDAE.
- Thrush, Red-bellied (*Turdus rufiventris*).

ZOSTEROPIDAE.
- White-eye, African (*Zosterops viridis*).

PLOCEIDAE.
- Finch, Sharp-tailed (*Uroloncha acuticauda*).
- Weaver, Dwarf (*Sitagra luteola*).

FRINGILLIDAE.
- Finch, Snow (*Montifringilla nivalis*).

Seed-eater, Sulphury (*Serinus sulphuratus*).
Siskin, Sikhim (*Chrysomitris spinoides*).

HYBRIDS.

PYCNONOTIDAE.
- Red-vented × Red-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus haemorrhous* × *Otocompsa jocosa*).

TURDIDAE
- Song Thrush × Blackbird (*Turdus musicus* × *Merula merula*).

PLOCEIDAE.
- Spice × Bib Finch (*Munia punctulata* × *Spermestes nana*).
- Mannikin, Magpie × Bengalese (*Amauresthes fringilloides* × *Uroloncha domestica*).
- Mannikin, Tricolour × Bengalese (*Munia malacca* × *Uroloncha domestica*).
- Silverbill, African × Bronze Mannikin (*Aidemosyne cantans* × *Spermestes cucullata*).

FRINGILLIDAE.
- Finch, Grey × White-throated (*Spermophila grisea* × *S. albigularis*).
- Greenfinch × Sikhim Siskin (*Ligurinus chloris* × *Chrysomitris spinoides*).
- Greenfinch × Mexican Rosefinch (*Ligurinus chloris* × *Carpodacus mexicanus*).

Nesting Notes: These are very variable at present, but some members are doing fairly well or have promise of doing so:—

Peach-faced Lovebirds are either incubating, or feeding young in the aviaries of several members.

In Dr. M. Amsler's aviaries Orchard, and the Little Saffron Finches have young, but the latter are not as yet fending for themselves, two of the former have left the nest. His Orange-headed Ground Thrushes are nesting again for the third year in succession, and Zebra Finches and Diamond Doves have young on the wing.

Mrs. Speaker in her bird-room has had a brood of three young Blue Tanagers hatched, two of which are still living and are now on the wing, but still being fed by their mother. This is a most interesting event, as it demonstrates that one may hope for success with some Tanagers quite apart from the natural garden-aviary. We should be glad if Mrs. Speaker would send full details (*vide* letter in Correspondence Section).

Miss E. C. Chawner has a brood of Jardine's Pigmy Owls; three eggs formed the clutch, all of which hatched out—the young are being fed by their parents on mice, young chickens and small Sparrows, and so far appear to be thriving. Both parents brood the young.

Zebra Finches, Bengalese, Spice Birds, Red-headed Finches, and various Grassfinches are nesting in many aviaries.

Dr. N. S. Lucas has two pairs of Firefinches nesting. Mr. W. A. Bainbridge has young Zebra, Diamond, and Red-headed Finches in the nest and on the wing. Indian White-eyes have hatched out but failed to rear, and the Australian White-eyes are apparently incubating. Scaly-crowned Finches are keeping up the reputation of last season, building nest after nest, with an occasional clutch of eggs, but fail to reach any definite result.

In the aviaries of Dr. L. Lovell-Keays over 50 per cent. of the mated pairs either have young, or are incubating, or nesting: When we last heard (May 21st) Green Avadavats, Mexican Rosefinches, Magpie Mannikins, Diamond Doves, Red Rosella Parrakeets, and Peach-faced Lovebirds were feeding young; and Green Cardinals (5 eggs), Virginian Cardinals (3 eggs), Firefinches and cross-mated Long-tailed and Masked Grassfinches were incubating. The Pekin Robins have nested and laid, but also eaten their two eggs. The above is only a partial account.

Just on the point of going to press we learn that in Mr. Shore Baily's aviaries, young of the Black Seed-Finch (*Melopyrrha nigra*) are on the wing. We do not think this species has been previously bred in captivity, we hope to publish a detailed account in our next issue. There are also young of the following species independent of their parents: Alexandrine and Rosella Parrakeets, and Sulphury Seed-eaters; Diamond, Necklace, and Bronze-wing Doves.

The foregoing indicates that the season promises well, at any rate in certain aviaries.

L.M. TRELOAR HOSPITAL AVIARIES: We tender sincere thanks for the following gifts: 1 Cockateel, and 1 Red-crested Cardinal, presented by R. S. de Q. Quincey, Esq.

ERRATA:

> Page 113, line 23, for "*albocristatus*" read *albicristatus.*

Page 126, line 2 from bottom, for "36 x 30 feet," read 66 x 30 feet.

Page 132, lines 15-6, should read: *Capt. E. C. Sprawson is O.C. Sanitary Section T. of the R.A.M.C.*, 3rd *Division, B.E.F.*

Page 134, line 35, for "*Cucaetus*" read *Circaetus.*

Page 135, line 8, for "Eastern Stork Dove" read *Eastern Stock Dove.*

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Correspondence.

THE IDIOSYNCRASIES OF A YELLOW-MANTLED PARRAKEET.

Sir,—Among the few birds I have here is a Yellow-mantled Parrakeet, who displays the oddest mixture of fear and affection towards the mates I have endeavoured to provide him.

A few months ago he was showing signs of being in breeding condition, so I resolved to keep a hen Mealy Rosella, which was sent to me on approval, as a companion for him. I put them side by side in cages to get used to each other. The Mealy was very much "taken" with him and displayed to him constantly, and although the Yellow-mantled was not quite so effusive in his behaviour, he brought food from his crop and showed the greatest anxiety and distress if she was taken out of his sight, being extremely angry if shown any other Parrakeet. After some weeks I let the Mealy Rosella go into the Yellow-mantle's cage. She continued her advances and made no attempt to attack him, but he was absolutely terrified of her and would not let her come near him. After many attempts I gave up the idea of pairing them as hopeless and took the Mealy away.

I next placed by him a little hen Stanley, who had plucked herself and was a most miserable object. The Yellow-mantle appeared to like her better than the Mealy, and when, after a few days, she was allowed to get into his cage he went up to and fed her. As soon, however, as she began to fly about the cage he grew almost as frightened of her as he had been of the Mealy, but when she became quiet for a few minutes he again summoned up courage to feed her. It was several days before he would allow her to fly or walk towards him, though he was ready to go up to her if she remained still! On being shown the hen Mealy he became furiously angry and tried to attack her, even biting the Stanley when she got in his way. TAVISTOCK.

19, Eaton Terrace, S.W. 1/v./'15.

[A later communication dated May 15th states that the Yellow-mantle and the Stanley are properly paired and now nesting.—Ed.].

THE OPENING OF THE SEASON, 1915.

Sir.—In response to your enquiry, the season is always late in this locality and there have been one or two annoying losses from egg-binding, but there is plenty of promise; of course realisation is a different matter, yet while there is nothing definite doing as yet, there is much that interests me.

The Orange-headed Bullfinches (*Pyrrhula erythrocephala*) have nearly finished a nest in an apple tree growing against the back wall. The nest is similar to that of our English Bullie, a few very thin twigs and then roots on top; they have not lined it yet—they are in beautiful condition and I hope will lay soon.

My Parrot Finches (*Erythrura psittacea*) have built a nest and are now steadily incubating a clutch of eggs. This is the first time this species has gone to nest properly with me so I hope a brood will be duly reared.

The Quail Finches (*Ortygospiza polyzona*) have gone to nest in the same position as last year, but have constructed a much better nest, very well hidden and the entrance covered by a big laurel leaf, which they have managed somehow to place there and turn sideways-up; the leaf was flat on the ground at first.

Melba Finches (*Pytelia melba*) have young in the nest, but it remains to be seen if they will be reared, as these birds have hatched out several times without attaining complete success in past seasons.

A Magpie Mannikin has mated up with a Two-coloured Mannikin and have nested, and I fancy there are young in the nest, as the full incubation period has passed, and they still keep to the nest.

Masked Grassfinches (*Poephila personata*), L.T. Grassfinches (*P. acuticauda*), Diamond Finches (*Steganopleura guttata*), Ruficauda Finches (*Bathilda ruficauda*), Cherry Finches (*Aeginthus modesta*), Bicheno's Finches (*Stictoptera bichenovi*), Cuban Finches (*Phonipara canora*), Blue-breasted Waxbills, etc., are all incubating. Others, such as: Aurora Finches (*Pytelia phoenicoptera*), Indigo Buntings (*Cyanospiza cyanea*), Pileated Finches, Goldfinches (*Carduelis elegans*), etc., are just starting operations. Siberian Bullfinches have a nest, a very handsome one, apparently complete, but they are still busy with it.

Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*) nested and laid a clutch of four eggs, which they incubated for a week when they pulled the nest to pieces and built another (quite a nice one) in a fresh place, then during a very cold and frosty spell which followed, I lost the hen from egg-binding, unfortunately not finding her in time for remedial measures to be of no avail.

The Indian Greenfinches (*Chrysomitris spinoides*) have showed signs of nesting for the first time. They commenced a nest in the shelter-shed, but have since dropped into moult.

Pink-browed Rosefinches (*Propasser rhodochrous*) are showing signs of starting too, in fact all the birds show signs of the nuptial season.

My Doves are all busy: Violet, Plumed Ground, Red Mountain, Peaceful, Necklaced, and Bar-shouldered are all incubating clutches of eggs. It has been a matter of surprise to me what a large structure the Masked (Cape) Doves have piled up.

The Little Collared Finches have also constructed a nest; they hatched out twice last season but the young were not reared. These, I believe, have not yet reared young in captivity.

Yellow-rumped Mannikins (*Munia flaviprymna*), Tricolour Mannikins (*M. malacca*), Chestnut-breasted Finches (*M. castaneithorax*), Gouldian Finches (*Poephila gouldiae*), and Desert Trumpeter Bullfinches (*Erythrospiza githaginea*) are about the only ones I have not actually seen at work nest building.

The Yellow-throated Sparrows (*Gymnorhis flavicollis*) are a bit of a puzzle, the cock gives the hen no peace and she hides away, but there is nothing further to report; however, I fancy they will settle matters shortly.

The Hair-crested Buntings (*Melophus melanicterus*) are back in the shelter-shed again, the scene of last year's operations, where they built a nest but did not lay. They are in lovely condition and should do better this year.

Rainbow Buntings (*Cyanospiza leclancheri*). Two years ago I bought a young bird of this species in nestling plumage. It moulted that year and also last year, and as it showed no sign of colour except a very faint yellow-brown breast I thought it was a hen. Now I notice some blue feathers coming on the head and the breast becoming more yellow, so I suppose it is a cock after all, but it is surely a long time for a young bird to take to come into adult plumage.

I have to close my rambling notes with further disasters. My hen Rosella Parrakeet became egg-bound and very weak; I put her into heat and she seemed better, but I found her dead the next morning! I have also lost a hen Bunting, I think, from violent pairing chiefly, though the cold spell may have been a contributing factor; perhaps from the skin you can name it for me.* I regret its loss as they are very handsome birds and quite uncommon I think.

Cressington Park, Liverpool, HERBERT BRIGHT.
21 v./'15.

*It is the Common Golden-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza flaviventris*) Ed.

NESTING OF BLUE TANAGERS.

Sir,—In response to your enquiry, I made my first acquaintance with with Blue Tanagers at the port of Savanilla (Colombia) in March 1914, where I bought a solitary, touselled, dirty-looking wild bird, which I was told would in time become blue, and feeling that two would be company I acquired another in Trinidad, similarly unattached and equally wild.

Knowing nothing of birds, I fed them on bread and milk during the voyage home; however I got them safely to London and at once put them in a large cage; as the birds were still exceedingly wild and unsociable, and presented a very bedraggled appearance. Proper feeding seemed to work wonders and I was delighted to find they were really becoming blue. I kept them in the cage for ten months, but they never got on well, squabbles and fights were the order of the day; and all my efforts to tame them being of no avail, I came to the conclusion they were both males, and rather uninteresting birds at that. But since then I have changed my opinion!

In February of this year I decided to let all my birds fly loose in the spare room (about 14 feet x 10 feet), which I fitted up with branches, coco-nut husks, and a large tree trunk with branches nailed on completed the furniture. The day I let the Tanagers out I thought they would surely beat themselves to death against the windows, but through mixing with the other birds they calmed down somewhat, but never became tame enough to eat in my presence.

About the middle of March I was delighted to see that a nest had been built in a corner, on a twig near the ceiling, and concluded that it belonged to the Pekin Robins, and at once nailed up ivy and evergreens to form a screen. The next day putting my hand into the nest I discovered two pale brown eggs; still in ignorance as to their owner I waited, and to my great surprise the smaller of the Blue Tanagers flew behind the ivy. My visits to the room after this were few and far between, as the hen would fly off the nest every time the door handle was turned. Fifteen days later I looked into the nest and there beheld three little open beaks. Food was my next anxiety and I supplied mealworms and greenfly, but I attribute my rearing of them so far to the Sugarbird's mixture and sponge cake, which is administered to one by the mother and the other by the father.

I might mention that six days after hatching, I found a dead chick on the window sill, whither it had been carried—a distance of three yards—by the mother.

Seventeen days after hatching on making my morning visit, I found a little blue stranger sitting on the ivy about the nest, the other making its appearance on the floor later in the day. In plumage they are exact replicas of their parents except for their tails being fan-shaped.

I propose sending a photo of them in a day or two, and meanwhile the hen is again nesting.

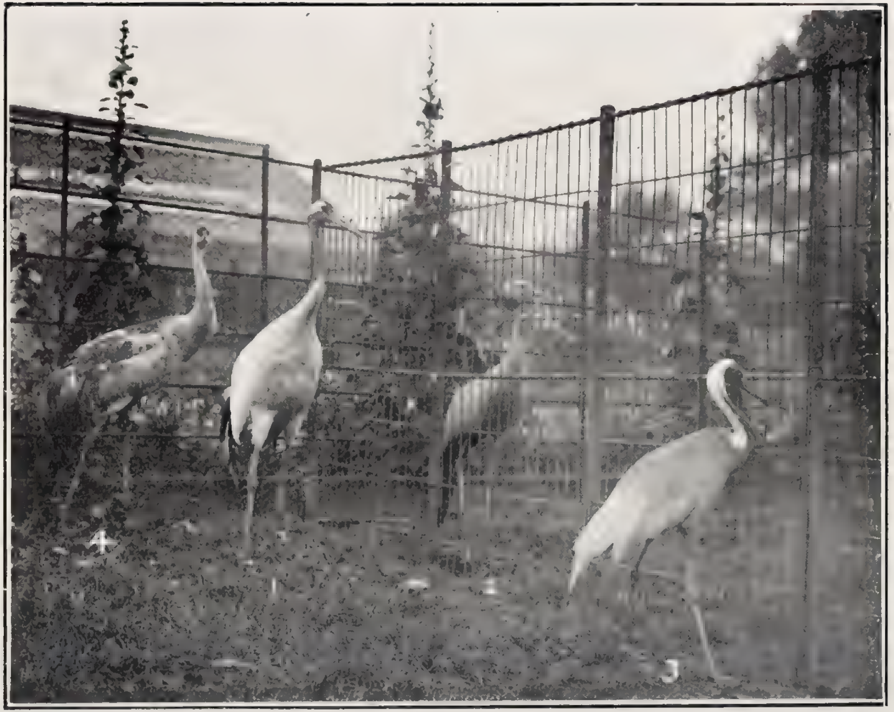
Twickenham, 1/6/'15. (Mrs.) ALICE SPEAKER.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules, see page II. of cover.

YOUNG GREY PARROT. (Lady Webster, Battle). The cause of death was *psittacosis*, commonly known as the septic fever of Parrots, which has been asserted by various authorities to give rise in man to a special epidemic in the form of pneumonia. This view, advanced by several eminent physicians, has been controverted by veterinary authorities, who look upon the connection as a mere coincident. This disease has been the cause of great mortality of young Parrots imported this spring. In this bird there was intense haemorrhagic enteritis, the blood clots in the form of a cylinder completely distending and occluding the lumen of the gut.

Continued on Page 40 of Inset.



1. Manchurian Crane.
2. Stanley Crane.
3. White-necked Japanese Crane.
4. Hybrid Canadian x Manchurian Crane.

Photo by H. Willford

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Cranes, Etc., In Captivity.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

I am writing, by request of the Editor, these notes on the management of Cranes and some other large birds in captivity. The subject is one which has often been dealt with by able and experienced aviculturists, and I therefore fear that much of what I am about to write is already known to readers of "Bird Notes."

Cranes may be divided into three classes:

1. Those which are absolutely hardy (by "hardy" I mean indifferent to cold).
2. Those which are reasonably hardy, *i.e.*, can stand very cold weather when in good health, but dislike it, and appreciate some rough shelter.
3. Those which are delicate.

In the first category I would place:

Manchurian Crane (*Grus japonensis*).
White-necked Crane (*Anthropoides leucauchen*).
Asiatic White Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*).
American Whooping Crane (*G. americana*).
Stanley Crane (*G. paradisea*).

In the second:

Sarus Crane (*Antigone antigone*).
Australian Crane (*A. australasiana*).
Common European Crane (*Grus communis*).
Wattled Crane (*G. carunculata*).
Hooded Crane (*G. monachus*).
Sandhill Crane (*G. mexicana*).
Demoiselle Crane (*G. virgo*).

In the third:

Crowned Cranes: *Balearica pavonia, B. chrysopelargus, B. gibbericeps.*

Cranes are very easily fed in captivity, the majority only requiring grain (wheat and maize) soft bread and soaked biscuit, and a little animal food where they are kept in a confined space. If they are allowed to wander over a large field or paddock, they will be able to find sufficient worms, etc., to satisfy their wants in this respect for themselves.

The Asiatic White Crane, however, usually requires a large amount of animal food in the shape of fish, meat, etc. to keep it in good health, and, if given the opportunity, will devour young Ducklings with the greatest gusto. Like all the larger Cranes it is extremely fond of fresh-water mussels, and a supply of these will always afford a great treat. The species has never been bred in confinement, though infertile eggs have occasionally been laid.

The little Demoiselle Crane, the smallest and one of the most beautiful of the genus, has been described as perfectly hardy, but after considerable experience I cannot agree with this and should say that, except in the case of a few unusually robust individuals, access to a warm dry shed is an absolute necessity during the winter months. The species is strongly migratory and the young birds will, as a rule, desert their parents, and the cock bird his mate, as soon as the instinct begins to make itself felt in the autumn. Occasionally, however, the instinct proves dormant, and we had two full-winged cock birds at liberty for several years, which, although unpaired, never went away. Both, unfortunately had to be shot one spring, because they started to interfere with other Cranes, and it was impossible to catch them alive.

The African Crowned Cranes are also birds whose hardiness, I should say, has been exaggerated, and I would advise the provision of artificial heat in winter if frost-bitten toes are to be avoided. Crowned Cranes *have* been kept successfully through the winter out of doors, even in the north of England, but I can only say that the owners of such birds have been unusually fortunate. With nearly all kinds of half-hardy birds, individuals are occasionally met with possessing powers of enduring cold far beyond those of the majority of their race. Crowned Cranes are decidedly subject to tuberculosis, and should never be placed on ground believed to be infected with this disease.

For the successful breeding of Cranes, a large quiet enclosure is desirable, containing a rush-grown piece of water by which the birds will make their nest. Quite a tiny pond is sufficient provided that there are plenty of reeds and flags to afford cover. The banks of the pond should not be at all perpendicular, otherwise there is great risk of the young (they are very feeble, little things when first hatched) being drowned. *Very* soft slimy mud is also apt to be a danger to the newly hatched chicks, which get bogged and suffocated, and a few pieces of turf may with advantage be thrown on the worst and shallowest places. Cranes are devoted parents in many ways, but they have not the slightest idea of extricating their young when they have managed to get into difficulties.

Earthworms form the principal food of young Cranes, and when the summer is not too dry, there is little danger of their dying except from accident. A prolonged drought, however, is a serious matter; the old birds cannot catch sufficient insects to keep their chicks alive when the latter are beginning to grow fast, and starvation is the result, for vegetable food is not eaten with any relish so long as the young are in the down.

During the breeding season and often at other times, Cranes are very spiteful and quarrelsome amongst themselves, the Australian, Sarus, and Stanley being about the worst. The eggs deposited by the two last mentioned species, as well as by the White Asiatic Crane, are very often infertile, and if for two years they should fail to hatch, the best plan is to

STANLEY CRANE

give the birds, if possible, a wider range and provide them with more animal food. If the result is still unsatisfactory, the only way is to change the cock and to go on changing him until you ultimately secure a reliable breeder. About one cock Stanley in six will successfully fertilize eggs: among Sarus the proportion of infertile males is not quite so high.

Young White-necked Cranes will usually stay in the neighbourhood of their birth-place if left unpinioned, provided that they are well fed, are undisturbed by other birds, and not left unmated their third spring (Cranes begin to breed when two or three years old).

Home bred Sarus and Australian Cranes will stay if provided with pinioned mates, but not otherwise. Young Common Cranes will stay for about a year and may even remain longer and breed, but in the latter case old and young are very apt to go off together in the autumn. Manchurian Cranes are highly migratory and must be pinioned if they are to be

MANCHURIAN CRANE
E.O.P.

kept at home, and, as has already been said, Demoiselle Cranes must be treated in the same way.

As pets Cranes have their advantages, but also possess serious drawbacks. Single birds become much attached to the person who feeds and attends to them and with him are gentle, playful and amusing, but with everybody else they are aggressive and with children are really dangerous. Paired birds are not a success when allowed to become tame. The cock usually reserves all his affection for his mate and treats the rest of the world in a very hostile fashion.

To be concluded.

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Breeding of the Orchard Finch *(Phrygilus fruticeti).*

BY MAURICE AMSLER, M.B., F.Z.S.

In January, 1914, we profited by a visit to Liverpool and inspected the old quarters of Mr. W. Cross. Here we saw much that was interesting, but the only birds that really appealed to us were a pair of Orchard Finches; they were steady, in good feather, and in their quiet way a most attractive pair—also, for some reason which I can't explain, I felt sure I could breed them.

All, however, was not to be plain sailing; we got safely back to Eton, and the birds were wintered in a cage. In March I turned them out into one of my aviaries, and a few days later had the chagrin of finding the cock dead in the outer flight. He had appeared in good health and was in perfect plumage. I can only conclude that he died from cold, although these birds appear to be quite hardy.

I was somewhat surprised, therefore, in July to find the hen sitting on four eggs, in a neatly constructed cup-nest. She sat for fourteen days, at the end of which time I gave her a clutch of Greenfinch's eggs. These she hatched out but did not feed, doubtless because, as I have since found, the species feeds entirely on insects when rearing young, and these were not supplied in sufficient quantity. Thus ended my hopes not only for 1914, but for ever, as I had little expectation of ever obtaining a male of this somewhat rare species.

Thanks, however, to the vigilance of Mr. Frost, I obtained a male in immature plumage, which arrived last October with a small consignment of this species. Needless to say, I nursed him carefully through the winter, and kept him during the early spring in an aviary where the door into the outer flight was kept closed; he spent most of his time sitting close to the netting which separated him from his would-be spouse, to whom I finally introduced him on April 15th.

The two birds had apparently made friends and become a little tired of each other through the wire partition, for they showed neither excitement nor gratitude when I placed them together, but they may, of course, have kept their courting for such times as they were unobserved; anyhow, five days later I found a completed nest in a privet bush, built externally of hay and green grass, and lined with coco-nut fibre and tow. As far as I was able to judge all the building was done by the hen.

On April 26th, 27th, and 28th, three eggs were laid. These were of a grey-blue ground colour, with stone-grey spots. The hen only performed the irksome duties of incubation the cock meantime being somewhat quarrelsome, particularly towards my Siberian Bullfinches and Orange-headed Ground Thrushes.

On May 9th (twelve days) I found two chicks in the nest, and the third made its appearance on the evening of the same day; all appeared very vigorous, were almost black and profusely covered with leaden-grey down. Through the kindness of my friend, Mr. Temple, I had no difficulty in providing insects, as he had made me a present of a large sack of maize meal and "melox," which was infested with a white maggot about half-inch long. I should be grateful if any reader could give me the life history of this, which finally becomes a small grey moth. The meal was put in a large tub and occasionally turned over, and the parent birds (and others) helped themselves.

I supplemented this *menu* with a few mealworms and small earthworms; the hen only used the latter, the cock having an obvious dislike to anything slimy. All insect food was well chewed, swallowed, and regurgitated.

On May 12th, the glass fell rapidly and I took the precaution of placing a piece of board a foot or so above the nest, as the hen seldom brooded the young; we had twenty-four hours' heavy rain, and I think that the lives of two of the chicks may thus have been saved. On May 14th one chick was picked up dead some yards from the nest.

May 19th, both young birds showing plentiful quills, eyes open.

On May 21st (at eleven days) both chicks left the nest: they were not ready to do so, but I feel certain they were not disturbed; they spent the first night under a Euonymus bush, covered with a large board, which I provided; the weather, fortunately, continued dry and all went well till the 22nd, when the male bird was so spiteful that I caught up the whole family and transferred them to a small vacant aviary, where feeding was at once continued.

Up to this date the young had been fed entirely on insects, but I now with-held the live food a little and induced the hen to use a little soft-food (and possibly seed). The young birds were now of a pearl-grey colour, with still a good deal of down on the head; dark brown flights and tail, and brown speckling on breast.

On May 25th both chicks could fly short distances and one roosted three feet from the ground. At, or about, this date, they developed the chestnut-ear patch which is seen in the adult female and which is absent in the male.

May 30th.—Chicks strong on the wing and can feed. Male still refuses to use anything but insects; female, however, gives soft food, greenfood, cake and seed.

General colour of young at three weeks: crown, nape, mantle, back and breast ashy-grey, speckled with black; beak dark horn colour; legs flesh colour; flights and tail feathers dark brown with buff-coloured edges—much like their female parent, but with no white on median wing-coverts.

On June 1st the old birds were building again, this time in a dead thuja tree. A few days later the young being practically independent I caught them up and caged them for observation, and, as I thought, to encourage the parents to rear a second brood—I was quite wrong in my deductions, for the old birds have ceased nesting and look very bored most of the day, although the male bird still sings a good deal.

At first I was not quite happy about the youngsters as they did not seem to care much for hard seed, but I soon discovered that they consumed large quantities of green-food, soft-food, cake crumbs, and such like.

On June 15th the first sexual distinctions were visible in the young—the male bird showing a little of the black forehead and breast, and the white moustachial streak was a trifle more marked than in the female; moreover at or about this time he began to imitate the song of his father who was within earshot.

On June 26th the young female who had been ill for some days died of pneumonia—how or why she contracted the disease I cannot guess! Her earlier days had been spent out of doors in an aviary without shelter—then on being put in a cage, which stood in the sun all day and was brought in at night, contracts a disease which is usually put down to cold, wet or draughts—such is often one's fate in aviculture.

In conclusion I should like to recommend this species to anyone who does not insist that a bird cannot be beautiful unless coloured like a Gouldian Finch or Sunbird.

The adult male takes at least two seasons to attain the full blacks in his plumage and is then an extremely handsome bird, even though somewhat suggestive of a very large cock Sparrow. The hen on the other hand is a very pretty study in soft brown and chestnut, and after last autumn's moult I considered her one of the most attractive looking birds in my aviaries

They are hardy, easy to breed, and were it not for their scarcity on the market would have been reared in captivity long ago.

Since writing the above notes I have replaced the old birds in their original aviary and they are again nesting.

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Nesting Results for 1914 at Park Lodge Aviaries

By Dr. L. Lovell-Keays, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 150).

I propose to commence this instalment with, what I consider to be perhaps, one of the most charming of all Waxbills, viz.: CORDON BLEUS (*Estrilda phoenicotis*). Its English name, Crimson-eared Finch or Waxbill, is seldom used, its French cognomen being in general use.

I can never understand the difficulty in discriminating between this species and the Blue-breasted Waxbill. The latter is a larger and much bluer bird and the brown colour is also quite different. I am told there is a difference in the beak, but I have not observed it. The two species have been crossed and bred from. Personally I should prefer the magenta mark on the cheek of the male to be removed, as the colours do not harmonize.

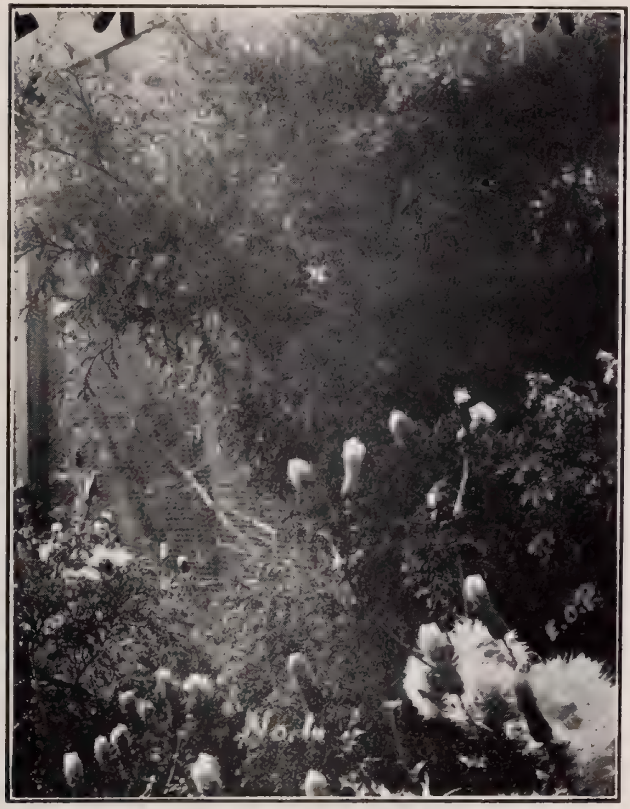
If only the Cordon Bleu were as hardy as an Avadavat what a joy it would be! But unfortunately they are most difficult to acclimatize. With regard to this word, "acclimatise," I have not much faith in it. From somewhat exhaustive experience—exhaustive as regard numbers at any rate—I have come to the conclusion that once over the first three weeks of their new surroundings the mortality amongst acclimatised and unacclimatised birds is nearly equal. In fact, during this last winter in some very heavy losses I experienced, the greatest were in aviary-bred birds. Many birds cannot stand a change of locality; nay more, a change of aviary in the same grounds will often result in the loss of a bird. A few days in a cage in the new quarters may save a bird's life. There are many reasons why it should, but the scope of this article is "breeding results" not a Caudle lecture on birds: so I must desist. It is an incorrigible habit to get so interested in your subject that you find you are going off hopelessly at a tangent, and before you know where you are, find yourself writing about War Loans or something equally foreign to the subject in hand. And yet in breeding these birds the question of getting them to settle down is important, and, as I have been very successful in breeding this species I may perhaps be pardoned for writing at some length. To read that Mr. So and So has bred the Flat-headed-talking-three-toed Curassow is, of course, most important, but the reader may argue: "I can't afford that kind of bird, tell me something about Cordon Bleus." This is my apology (quite unnecessary.—Ed.), a poor one, I admit, but I am desparately keen on my little Cordons, and I do not intend that they shall be dismissed as if they were white mice.

Fortunately the sexes in mature birds are very easy to tell and the cocks get the crimson cheek mark very early—quite in the first autumn of their life. It is better to pay a really big price for aviary-bred or thoroughly "acclimatised" (*i.e.* healthy) birds than to buy recently imported birds; the latter die off in a way that is most heart-breaking. Then one should keep one's birds caged up in the aviary you want them to be in for a week or possibly more.

Like most Africans, they prefer millet, both white and Indian, and canary seed as their staple diet. I make it a rule to give all birds I want to nurse up an abundance of millet spray. They are fond of it; it is very wholesome and moreover it keeps them occupied. Newly-imported birds should be given grit very sparingly. Birds just after travelling should always be given warm water. If you like to be a faddist and to feel you are really an A1 aviculturist, you will give them boiled water, but, if you are anything of a chemist, you will not take the trouble. Large cages, please, but do not hang them up in the brilliant sun. In a truly natural aviary few birds deliberately choose to be baked alive. My Cordon Bleus want looking for, or what amounts to the same thing, waiting for. They are not like the Italian organ grinder and his monkey, who occupy your front door-step, and stay until further orders. Like all Waxbills they are passionately fond of seeding grass, which, after picking out (eating) the seeds they use for weaving a most delightful and fascinating, domed nest, generally lined with soft hay or dried grass; sometimes feathers are used, but not by any means always.

Two nests are illustrated in this article, showing how cleverly they are hidden in the bushes: Number 1 was built in a Retinospora—a very favourite tree with all birds and splendid cover; very snug and warm, and always looks well, being an evergreen—and number 2 (*see plate*) in an Evangeline Rose, than which no Rambler Rose is more vigorous, more beautiful, and moreover it has the great advantage in not being so thorny as some.

In each of the nests figured three young Cordons were fully reared. The eggs are, of course, white. Why "of course" you ask? It is, I believe, a general rule that eggs which are laid in domed nests, or in holes, etc., where they are not easily seen, are white, but where the eggs are, so to speak, "on view" they are coloured, to render them less conspicuous. White is, of course, the most conspicuous colour of all—compare the white daisy with the yellow buttercup. The entrance to these wonderful domed nests is extremely small and often most difficult to find, so that the eggs, which are tiny and oval, are never visible from the exterior in ordinary circumstances. Many Waxbills such as Orange-cheeked and Pink-cheeked build on, or quite near, the ground, and deliberately cover the roof with any bits of rubbish such as dried excreta, odd bits of shell, and once I remember a mummified young bird, which had died in the callow-stage. The reason is sufficiently obvious, viz.: to conceal the nest, and very effectually it does so.



I did not particularly notice the incubation period, but I believe it to be ten days. The callow young are quite pale with a little bit of down on, at any rate very soon after their advent. Cordon Bleus desert very easily, at least most pairs do, and will stand no interference. This is true of them at all stages of rearing young until they have left the nest. I have no doubt they are reared largely on live-food, but although I bred several broods, I never once detected the old birds taking live food to them. I suspect the live food is mixed in the parent's crops with the seed and the young have to put up with it as thin, sticky kind of pap. In about fourteen days the young have feathered and then think about having a look round. When they do, they fly helter skelter, in all directions, and if there is a mousehole will somehow contrive to not only find it but to get down it too. Now, mouseholes have no business in an aviary—mice are not uncatchable. I was over-run with them in one aviary and I have nearly exterminated them. At any rate I caught nearly 250 last winter. I now use the ordinary break-back trap and bait them with cheese. I put them in the "runs" and cover them with a box, having cut off half-an-inch from two opposite ends. This allows the mice to run freely underneath, but no bird will attempt it. Mice will get into the aviary and can't get out, so you must catch them, and catch them you must and can. But to return to my young Cordon Bleus, the parents find them out and in a day or two you may find them sitting quite sociably all together, or they may even return to the nest again. I have found this a common occurrence with all Waxbills. With baby birds, it has always struck me as being rather clever, one expects the grown-ups to, but not the babies. Once out of the nest time quickly passes and gradually the little birds don their blue dresses and the cocks their crimson ear-patches or cheeks. Generally this occupies some weeks, but it is not till the following spring that the young birds get quite like the adults. I had a good few of these birds but unwisely left them out all the winter. The result was that I lost nearly my entire flock, and I have only one hen and several cocks left. I have tried very hard to get another hen but so far without success; I even offered 10s. for a single hen, but failed to procure it at that figure, and yet we have often bought this most exquisite

Nest of Cordon Bleu.

Waxbill for as little as 3s. 6d. a pair!

The Waxbills appeal to me so strongly that I have devoted an entire aviary to them, and that the most sheltered aviary of the whole series, and so far I feel the results have justified my experiment, for in June of this year a pair of Firefinches turned out a nest of five young, all of which were fully reared. Given a really good shelter and a perfectly sheltered flight, I consider the Cordon Bleu one of the easiest birds to keep, but they cannot stand three things, viz:

1. Change of place.
2. Cold damp weather.
3. Disturbance.

They are not great bathers, nor are they prone to egg-binding over much.

I have written more than I intended, but like the Irish orator I don't know when to stop. Wishing "*Au revoir*" to our fascinating little Cordon Bleus, without which no aviary is, to my mind, quite complete, I will pass on to our next Waxbill, viz.: THE GREEN AVADAVAT (*Stictospiza formosa*). I wonder why the genius (or is it genii) who gave birds their English names did not call it a Zebra Finch; it is much more like a Zebra than the real Zebra Finch, or the Orange-breasted Waxbill.

Green Avadavats are lovely birds—quite as beautiful as Cordon Bleus, but of course an entirely different scheme of colour. Here we have a beautiful blending of greens and yellows, with most distinct Zebriform stripes on each flank. The cocks are decidedly larger and purer yellow than the hens. There is no mistaking a true pair of these birds. I consider them far more delicate than the Cordon Bleus. In 1913 a whole lot came over but I doubt if a dozen or two of that lot still survive. I tried and tried again before I finally succeeded in breeding them, and then they bred so late that the young died a week after leaving the nest. But Fate has been kinder to me this year and I have three fine, sturdy young birds six weeks old. Their first nest was a typical dome-shaped structure, built entirely of bast (or raffia grass). Four or five eggs form the clutch, and the incubation period is about ten days. The egg is white, and of a fairly roundish oval form. Both birds incubate and they share bed and board, They set us humans a very high example. To the wedded Waxbills life is one long honeymoon. Her motto is "My king can do no wrong" and his is "A good wife is like a pearl without price" and they both live up to their mottoes. I can't bear to go into the aviary when there has been a death. I know it in an instant. The little widow or widower calls as if his little heart would break. Their distress would soften the heart of Pluto or bring remorse to that of Nero. And none are more tender hearted than the Waxbills and Grassfinches. That is why I love them so. They bring home to me the inner meaning of these words:

"What sweet sorrow parting is," but alas to them that parting generally means for aye!

Green Avadavats are very prone to egg-binding and cannot stand a cold N.E. wind. The little hen I now possess was egg-bound three times this spring. Each time the dry heat cured her, and she lived to raise a family of three healthy and beautiful children. Wisely they decided to nest in a rush basket in the shelter, which no doubt contributed to their success.

The young birds have very dark beaks, are not a bit like their parents, but a very beautiful harmony of grey greens with broad yellow bands on the wings. There is not a trace of barring along the sides or flanks and the beak is not in the least red. Contrary to what one would expect, the full-grown, young birds appear larger than their parents. They grow very much after they leave the nest, but that is not a peculiarity of Waxbills. I have never moulted out young Green Avadavats, but it is obvious that some of those that I have bought have been very young birds, and in them the barring is much less distinct and the yellow not nearly so brilliant. In a well coloured adult the yellow is almost a cadmium yellow. The tail, as in all Waxbills, is never at rest, and is much used in courting.

All the Waxbills in courting hold a long piece of grass in their beaks, and then, tip-toeing to their fullest extent, jump seriously and methodically up and down. This sounds very ridiculous, but in reality is not a bit more so than the modern "*classic danseuse*" who enacts Salome or other questionable denizens of the East.

Diet and general treatment call for no comment beyond what has been said *à propos* of the Cordon Bleu.

Most birds are beautiful; all are interesting, but none more so than the two examples which it has been my joy and privilege to breed and describe in this short article. I hope it may be of interest to some and help to others. I am always fearful of making it too long, but I hardly dare trust myself with pen and paper when writing about my sweet little feathered friends. If I am a bore,, please forgive me.

(To be continued).

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My Little Owls *(Athene noctua).*

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

(Continued from p. 159).

Errata: Page 155, line 10, for "slipping" read *dipping.*
Page 156, last line, for "in capsule" read *in a capsule.*
Page 158, line 16, for "*cachés*" read *caches.*

Peeps had one drawback as a pet—he was desperately shy of strangers, and consequently would never show off when they were present. Even people he saw constantly he would not trust except perhaps my servant, who often brought his food and on whose shoulder he would, when hungry, sometimes condescend to alight. He did, it is true, become perfectly tame, in his early days, with a lady who fed and looked after him at a time when I was away from home: but he transferred his affection back to me on my return and viewed her with increasing suspicion for the rest of his life, in spite of the kindness she always showed him. In early autumn Peeps moulted his immature plumage (the head of a young bird is plain greyish brown; that of an old one is spotted with yellowish white) and by the beginning of December he looked quite a fine grown-up bird. I may say that my Little Owls, besides undergoing a moult in the late summer, also cast and renewed a number of their wing and tail feathers in March. I do not know whether this is a normal habit or whether it was the result of captivity. Both Peeps and his successor "Kirrie" used regularly to lose part of the tip of the upper mandible (which had by that time grown rather long) during September, the break being so neat and clean that I am of opinion that the process is a perfectly natural one, and would have occurred if they had been living wild.

After the first few weeks I fed Peeps on freshly killed Sparrows and mice, with the heads of game and poultry when these were not obtainable. Stale food he would eat quite as readily as fresh (remember that the head of a chicken *is* stale long before the body is ready for the table) but it did not agree with him, neither did rabbit, of which he was not particularly fond. Mealworms and all kinds of insects he loved and would eat in any quantity alive or dead. I found him most useful in clearing up the sleepy flies which are so often found hibernating in country houses, and which emerge in the evenings to blunder into lamps, afterwards falling on the table singed and kicking, in a condition disgusting alike to themselves and to humanity. Peeps had a short way of dealing with these too ardent seekers of light, which saved me the trouble of inflicting many unappetising *coups de grace.* Moths, too were a very favourite quarry and if a large moth appeared in the room, Peeps would stoop prettily at it as it settled for a moment on wall or ceiling and seldom missed his aim.

Peeps began to utter the true call-note of his race towards the end of December. His voice at first was very odd and hoarse, and it was not for some time that he attained the deep clear note, which sounds so pretty when heard at a little distance. I once, by the way, kept a young Brown Owl, which used to practise his hoot in the tiniest whisper of a voice for several weeks before he gained confidence enough to launch out into the far-reaching tu-whit, tu-whoo we all know so well.

If I imitated him, Peeps became much interested and would fly on to my head or shoulder and nibble my ear or pull my hair to find out where the noise came from. It was evident that he wanted a mate, but it was not until summer was far advanced, and he had long ceased to call, that I succeeded in finding him a companion. The new bird, which was fully adult, had only just come over from Holland, when I bought her. She was very wild and extremely dirty, her plumage and especially her quills being so worn and broken that she could only fly a few yards. A few days after her arrival she took a much-needed bath the first and only real bath in which I have known a Little Owl indulge. When shown her intended mate, Mrs. Peeps, as we afterwards called her, manifested but one desire, viz.: to seize and devour him. He, on his part, was only mildly interested in her and showed (which, perhaps, was not surprising) no joy at her appearance. But although her attitude towards Peeps was frankly murderous, she was by no means as savage with me as I expected. Although she snapped her beak ferociously whenever I approached, she made no attempt to bite or use her claws when I touched her and only tried to escape. Before long, under the influence of a little coaxing and reassured, no doubt, by the example of Peeps' fearlessness, she grew bolder and would take food from my hand, and later jump on to my arm. It took a little time to teach her not to grab every eatable I offerred her with her foot, a painful and unpleasant habit possessed by all Owls which have caught prey for themselves, but in the end her manners improved, and her behaviour at meals became unexceptionable. As time went on she learned to fly on to my arm or shoulder for food from any part of the room, to answer when I spoke to her and to allow me to sprinkle her with water when she wanted a bath (like Peeps she restricted her ablutions to one wash per month). But there were limits to her tameness, she never quite liked me to walk up to her when she was loose in the room, and she would shrink away nervously if I began to stroke her head. When not feeling quite at her ease she had an amusing habit of shifting from one foot to another, like a little child saying a lesson which has not been properly learned. She was, however, always extremely gentle (even when frightened), and most obedient, and would return to her cage directly she was told to do so. Peeps also understood the meaning of the order to go home, but he pleased himself about obeying.

After some weeks I began to let the pair out together, though not very often, as Mrs. Peeps attacked her future mate so savagely that he was afraid to venture on to the floor. In spite of her age and experience of free life, she was nearly as inquisitive and quite as playful as Peeps, and she enjoyed her outings to the full. In the autumn I went to

Scotland, and took the Owls with me. Peeps disliked the train, but he endured it as an unavoidable evil, when once he had been thrust, protesting angrily, into his travelling cage. But Mrs. Peeps never became reconciled to railway travelling, and throughout the greater part of the night gave loud and audible expression to her discontent. The noise she made was not the ordinary alarm call, nor yet the cry uttered by the Little Owl when its nest or young are threatened: it was an angry, querulous kee-uk, kee-uk, which Peeps used to utter when I interfered with his food or when he was fighting and expected to get the worst of the encounter. I know of no bird except the Little Owl, which gives vocal proof of its annoyance, when irritated by a combination of circumstances, vexatious, yet not actually painful nor accompanied by the appearance of some particular object causing anger or fear. When really frightened, Mrs. Peeps was silent, and it was only during quiet moments that she indulged her chagrin by outbursts of unparliamentary language. There is something amazingly human about *Athene noctua* and the goddess of wisdom was surely right in the choice of her pet!

After the Owls had been some weeks in their new quarters, Peeps began to retaliate against the attacks of his future spouse, and the battles which raged between them frequently necessitated my interference to prevent bloodshed. The combatants, on meeting, would face each other for a moment with drooping wings and ruffled plumage, squeaking and kee-uking angrily: then they would begin to make quick pounces, the bird attacked shooting into the air at the last moment, and trying to come down on the aggressor from above. Peeps' superior wing power at length gave him the advantage, and Mrs. Peeps in her turn became the bullied one, and I often had to interfere on her behalf. Matters continued for a long time in this unsatisfactory state and I began to fear that my birds were of the same sex. The difference in size between the male and female Little Owl is often trifling and the plumage is alike in both; at one time I believed that the female always had a flatter skull, but I discovered later that some hens have a typically masculine physiognomy.

(*To be continued*).

The Buzzard *(Buteo vulgaris).*

By Frank Dawson-Smith.

The subject of this article is a very beautiful and interesting inhabitant of the wilder districts of the British Isles. Not by any means, a common species, it can yet be observed frequently in such localities as Exmoor, Dartmoor, and the more desolate parts of Wales.

Owing to better protection, it has increased during late years, which is a good thing to reflect upon, as the bird is not only interesting, but extremely useful. The Buzzard shows to best advantage when on the wing, wheeling in circles, on the hunt for food, and flying high. When hunger is finally appeased, the bird will find a perch on some rock, tree, or other point of vantage, where it sits in lazy content, but keeping, at the same time, a wary eye around, to avoid a surprise attack by an enemy. Buzzards breed in rocks, or trees, the nests being made of sticks with green leaves interspersed. The object of these leaves is unknown, but, without doubt, the Buzzard has a good and sufficient reason. Two or three eggs are usually laid, of a white ground-colour, with pale brown spots

and markings. After the young are hatched, both parent birds feed them, and very devoted parents they are.

YOUNG BUZZARD

In captivity the Buzzard quickly settles down to aviary life and becomes a tame and hardy pet.

When I go the round of my aviaries, bearing food and tit-bits, I come to one whose solitary inmate greets me with a welcoming "howl." This greeting is uttered by the patriarch of my collection, the old Buzzard, or to mention her affectionate patronymic "Buzzy." Many vicissitudes has this old favourite been through in the past. She was captured by boys when quite young and unable to fly, and had not been well-cared for, probably through ignorance in knowledge of what she required. Then she was sent to me and became an honoured and petted inmate of my aviaries. The nest-down had not quite departed when she arrived, and she looked a mass of soft downy feathers! Ill-treatment had not spoiled Buzzy's temper. As a preliminary experiment I offered her a field mouse as a peace-offering. She took it with gratitude and we became instant friends. Mice have always been her favourite food, but rats are also accepted with avidity. Birds are not relished, and indeed, are never touched unless compelled by hunger, when no other food is to be obtained. The number of mice which a wild Buzzard consumes in a year must be enormous. It is most amazing to think that such a beautiful and *useful* bird can be subjected to such persecution as it is in some districts. The good these birds do must far outweigh the very little, if any, harm they may be responsible for. A Buzzard can destroy rats as well as mice. I might have doubted the fact if I had not myself seen "Buzzy" kill a nearly full-grown rat. The animal came into the run where "Buzzy" was calmly surveying nature from her block of wood. In an instant her calmness disappeared; a quick, alert eagle-look shone in her eyes, and in a flash she had darted down and on to the rat, seizing it in her claws. Then holding the squealing animal she calmly bit into its head and killed it. I had seen remnants of rat fur in her aviary and wondered how it had got there, until "Buzzy" illustrated the reason under my eyes. No doubt many a rat had entered—to leave no more. Mice are usually swallowed whole, but rats are skinned first, the fur being drawn back like pulling off a glove inside out, and the flesh eaten as it becomes exposed. Any kind of raw flesh is eaten but "fur" food is the favoured diet.

Old "Buzzy" has an engaging personality, and many are the offerings of rats and mice that she receives from the boys of the village, their appeal being invariably "Please sir, may I give it to 'Buzzy'?"

Food is taken from the hand of anybody, but her head and breast may be stroked only by her own personal friends. A loud howl rather like the "miau" of a cat, proceeds from "Buzzy" when her dinner-time draws near, the howls increasing in volume as she sees the food-dish approaching. Her Majesty expects the dish to be handed to her and she then selects a likely piece of meat and carries it off. Water in a large shallow bath is used for drinking and bathing, for "Buzzy" is fond of her bath.

She has had many companions during her sojourn with me; Kestrels, Merlins, Black Vultures, Caracaras, Buzzards, etc., but her especial friend was an Iceland Gyr-Falcon. They would sit side by side in perfect content, and not even birds of her own kind—the Buzzards could woo or win her from her devoted pal, the Gyr-Falcon.

CARRYING NESTING MATERIAL.
E.D.S.

She now reigns alone and allows no other bird to violate her neutrality. Every spring she collects sticks and straws, which I scatter about the run, and builds a nest in the corner of her aviary, but she has never evinced any real desire to enter seriously into the duties of housekeeping.

Yarrell tells of a female Buzzard, kept near London, who every year built a nest. She hatched out some fowl's eggs which had been placed in her nest, and tried to bring up the chicks on bits of meat, getting terribly anxious and concerned when they disregarded her proffered delicacy. Another time when chicks were given her instead of eggs, she promptly killed them!

AT REST IN AVIARY
F.D.S.

A lovable trait in my "Buzzy's" character is the keen interest she evinces in young birds of other species. Each spring I rear Jackdaws and Magpies by hand in an aviary adjoining hers. "Buzzy" keeps a close watch on the youngsters, sitting as close to them as the intervening wire netting allows. She howls in sympathy when they cry for food, and this prolonged wail of hers continues until I appear with the food for the feathered babies, over whom her maternal instinct watches and guards.

Buzzards get very jealous during the breeding season, resenting the intrusion of any other bird and guarding the territory adjacent to their nest tenaciously.

After studying the habits of Buzzards for many years, I have proved to my entire satisfaction that they are great and natural enemies of rats and mice, and almost, or quite harmless to bird life.

To any real lover of nature this fine and beautiful species must appeal strongly. They certainly add to the charm of the wilder country localities, and it is good to be able to state that they are holding their own.

I trust that these notes, together with the photos of "Buzzy" at home may prove of interest. I should like to write at greater length of my oldest friend, but space in "Bird Notes" is valuable. Added to which an insistent "howi" outside proclaims "Buzzy" awaits her dinner, which is an imperative reason for me to lay down my pen and attend to Her Majesty's demands.

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Good and Bad Points in My Aviaries—Failures and their Lessons.

BY WM. SHORE-BAILY.

Concluded from p. 154.

The lists given refer to the birds, as distributed through the respective aviaries for this season, and, at the Editor's request, I am interpolating a few notes of happenings to date (June 24), together with such alterations as the demeanour of the birds has necessitated.

No. 1 Aviary. Pairs each of Necklace, Half-collared, and Senegal Doves; Cockateels; Californian Quail; Yellow Sparrows and Canaries. Odd cock hybrid Squamata × Californian Quail; Mealy Rosella (♂) and Red Rosella (♀) Parrakeets, and 2 cock Moustache Parrakeets—also a flock of Black headed, Rufous-necked, and Abyssinian Weavers.

In this aviary the Mealy and Red Rosellas were a great nuisance early in the season, and they caused the loss of Necklace, Senegal, and Half-collared Turtle Doves nests, but the hen is now incubating (I have not seen her for three weeks) and things are once more quiet. A young Senegal Dove left the nest one day this week and the old ones are again incubating, as are also the Necklace Doves. The Cockateels' first nest was a failure, but these are also again sitting. The Californian Quail laid 30 eggs and is now incubating nine of them, the remainder being put under a hen. The nine Hyphantornine Weavers are all cocks, amongst them being the hybrid bred in 1913; he is now in full colour and closely resembles his father (*Sitagra olivacea*), being brown about the face and head where the other Weavers are black. They have woven many nests in all parts of the aviary.

No. 2: Pairs each of Moustache, Alexandrine, and Rose-headed Parrakeets, Budgerigars; Aurita Doves; and Yellow Sparrows. Cocks: Plum-headed Parrakeet, Blue-winged Lovebird, Peaceful Dove and a hen Brush Bronze-wing Dove also a flock of Orange and Napoleon Weavers.

Here the Alexandrine Parrakeets nested early in February, but the young died in the shell. However, they nested again, and on June 12th two fine young ones left the nest. A few young Budgerigars have also appeared but none have survived. It was found necessary to remove all the small birds, so that this aviary could be used as a kind of nursery for the young Doves and Parrakeets hatched in the other enclosures.

No. 3: Pairs each of Severe Macaws; Black-headed Conures; Madagascar and Black-cheeked Lovebirds; Bleeding-heart and Masked

SEVERE MACAWS.
W.S.B.

Doves; cock Blue-crowned Conure; hens: Cape, Cinnamon and Swainson's Sparrows, and some cock House Sparrows—also a flock of Red-billed Weavers.

In this aviary Madagascar Lovebirds nested twice early in the spring, but the cold weather killed all the young in the shell. They are again incubating and with the warm weather now prevailing may succeed in bringing off young. A disaster happened to the Black-cheeked Lovebirds, the hen being killed by an odd Quaker Parrakeet that I was foolish enough to introduce into the aviary. The Cape and Cinnamon Sparrows nested, the latter having fertile eggs by the House Sparrow, but no young have been hatched; both are now incubating second clutches. Very interesting birds here are the Severe Macaws (*Ara severa*). Why *Severe* I do not know! My birds are particularly frivolous. It is most amusing to see them playing with a male Blue-crowned Conure. The hen Macaw permits him to do what he likes and I have frequently seen him feed her.

No. 4. Pairs each of Rosella Parrakeets; Brush Bronze-wing and Diamond Doves; Cutthroats; Bib and Zebra Finches; Bengalese; Yellow Sparrows; Black-headed Mannikins, and Spice Finches.

Here the Rosellas have had seven young ones. Unfortunately the hen elected to go to nest, the second time, before the young were very strong on the wing, and turned nasty with them, killing two by biting through their upper mandibles. The five surviving have been removed and are doing well. Diamond Doves nested twice, but either the eggs or young were knocked down by the young Parrakeets, and I have since lost the hen. The Brush Bronze-wing Doves went through the same experience, and their nests were also lost. I have now removed them to No. 9 Aviary. Canaries, Bengalese, and Bib Finches, are incubating, but so far there are no young. The cock Yellow Sparrow escaped and on being recaptured was placed with its mate in No. 6 Aviary. A rather curious incident has just occurred in the aviary: my man noticing that the seed in one of the feeding trays was disappearing at night, set a "Little Killer" trap close to a hole he found in the ground. Within half-an-hour he caught a big-headed, long-tailed fieldmouse, and ten minutes later from the same hole a large short-tailed mouse. The common house mouse has apparently deserted the aviary.

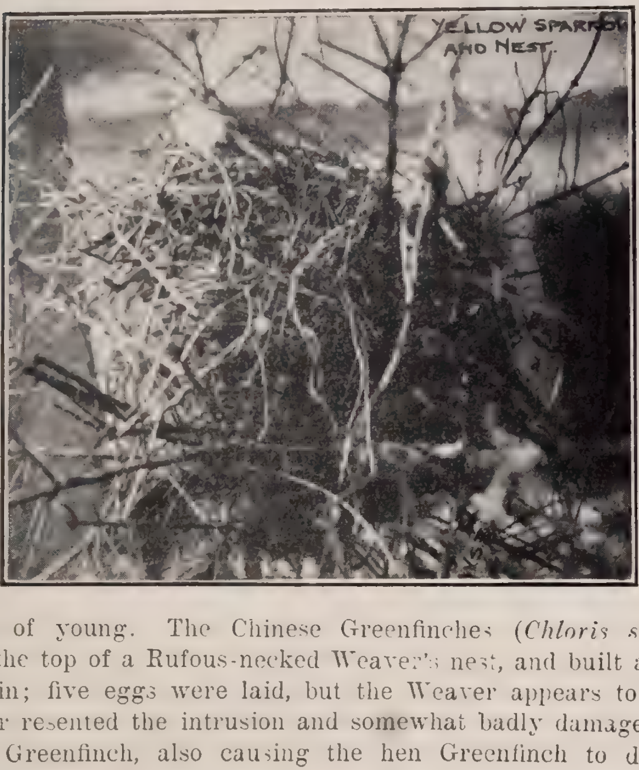
No. 5: Pairs each of Speckled Conures; Diuca Finches; Diamond Doves; Canaries; cock Madagascar and hen Black-cheeked Lovebirds; cock Goldfinch and hen Sikhim Siskin; and two pairs Taha Weavers.

Here Canaries are so far the only birds to bring off young, but Diuca and Saffron Finches, transferred here from

No. 2 aviary, have nests. The Napoleon and Taha Weavers have not yet built. Charming birds are the Speckled Conures (*Conurus eaops*). They are very tame and as active as monkeys, but have, I am afraid, interfered with the nesting of some of the small birds. I have also here a St. Thomas' Conure mated with a Tovi Parrakeet, and they look rather like nesting—an interesting hybrid should result. Diamond Doves also nested but I lost the hen, egg-bound. The Napoleon Weavers from No. 2 Aviary, have been turned in here, and the males now in full colour very closely resemble the cock Tahas.

No. 6: Pairs each of Chilian Teal; Chinese Greenfinches; Mexican Black-breasted Quail, Canaries; and Necklace Doves. Cocks: Fieldfare, Olivaceous and Abyssinian Weavers, and hen Golden Weavers.

In this aviary Necklace Doves have brought off two pairs of young. The Chinese Greenfinches (*Chloris sinica*) tore the top of a Rufous-necked Weaver's nest, and built a nest therein; five eggs were laid, but the Weaver appears to have rather resented the intrusion and somewhat badly damaged the cock Greenfinch, also causing the hen Greenfinch to desert. They have now built a nest in a laurel and are again incubating



a clutch of eggs. The Rufous-necked and Olivaceous Weavers have, as usual, built many nests, but the flock of Orange Bishops have not started building yet. The Black-breasted Mexican Quail have also made a nest, but look as if they were going no further with it. The Yellow Sparrows have built a huge nest of sticks (*see photo*); quite big enough in fact, for a colony.

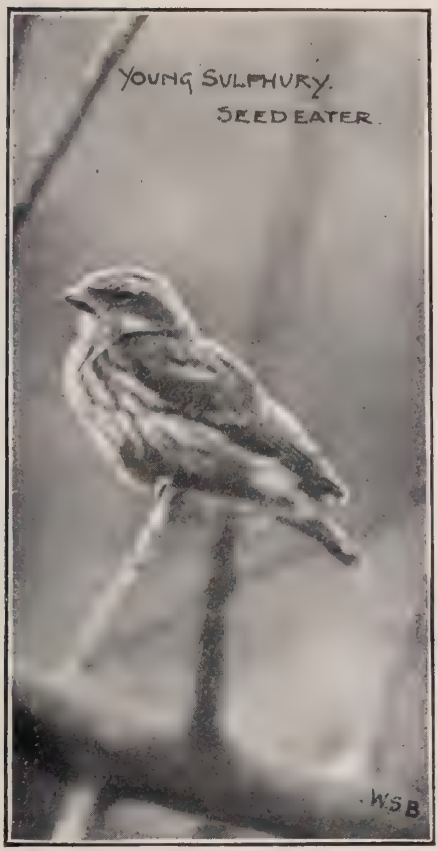
No. 7: Pairs each of Chestnut-breasted Teal; Bronze-wing Doves; Paradise Whydahs; Crimson-crowned, Golden, and Half-masked Weavers. Cocks: Red-collared Whydah and Greenfinch; hen Sikhim Siskin.

Bronze-necked Doves have nested three times—the first pair of young left the nest in very wet and cold weather, soon succumbing to a chill; one only was saved from the second nest, but they are feeding another pair of squabs, which look like being successfully reared. Half-masked Weavers (*Hyphantornis vitellinus*) have young, but the Crimson-crowned have so far made no attempt to build. This may be due to the cock Half-masked, who in his spare moments from building, chases them from pillar to post. The Golden Weavers (*Sitagra galbula*) have just completed a nest, and the hen has already taken possession, so I have hopes of breeding this handsome species this season.

No. 8: Pairs each of Cinnamon Teal; Diamond Doves; Sulphury Seed-eaters, Black Seed-finches; Indian Larks; Bearded Tits; Cordon Bleus; Grey, and Orange-cheeked Waxbills, also 2 pairs each Dwarf and Red-headed Weavers.

Here the Black Seed-finches and the Sulphury Seed-eaters have successfully reared one young bird each; the first-named is the first time that *Melopyrrha nigra* has been reared in captivity in the British Isles, but their story is to appear as a separate article. Both pairs are now feeding their second broods. Diamond Doves have only fully reared one youngster. Zebra Finches have young in the nest, and Cordon Bleus are incubating. The young Dwarf Weavers have repaired the nest in which they came into being and are now sitting. The Red-headed Weavers have, so far, done nothing.

No 9: Pairs each of Ringed Teal; Cuban Colins; Aurita Doves; Brown-eared Conures; Abyssinian Weavers; Variegated Laughing Thrushes, cock Himalayan Greenfinch and hen Goldfinch.



Brown-eared Conures (*Conurus ocularis*) are about due to hatch. The Variegated Laughing Thrushes, although an undoubted pair, have shown no signs of nesting. Abyssinian Weavers have nested, but not yet laid. Young Conures were hatched to-day (June 29th).

No. 10. This last aviary is built in an odd corner, covers about 10 x 10 feet of ground space and is 10 feet high. It is sheltered by a Beech Tree, but has no artificial protection. It contains :

Pairs each of Petz's Conures, Diamond Doves, Zebra Finches, and Red Sparrows (*Auropasser emini*).

Zebra Finches and Diamond Doves have young, and Petz's Conures look rather like nesting.

Zebra Finches and Diamond Doves have young, and Petz's Conures look rather like nesting.

If "All's well" at the end of the season I shall hope to send still further notes.

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The Breeding of the African White-eyes.

By Dr. L. Lovell-Keays, F.Z.S.

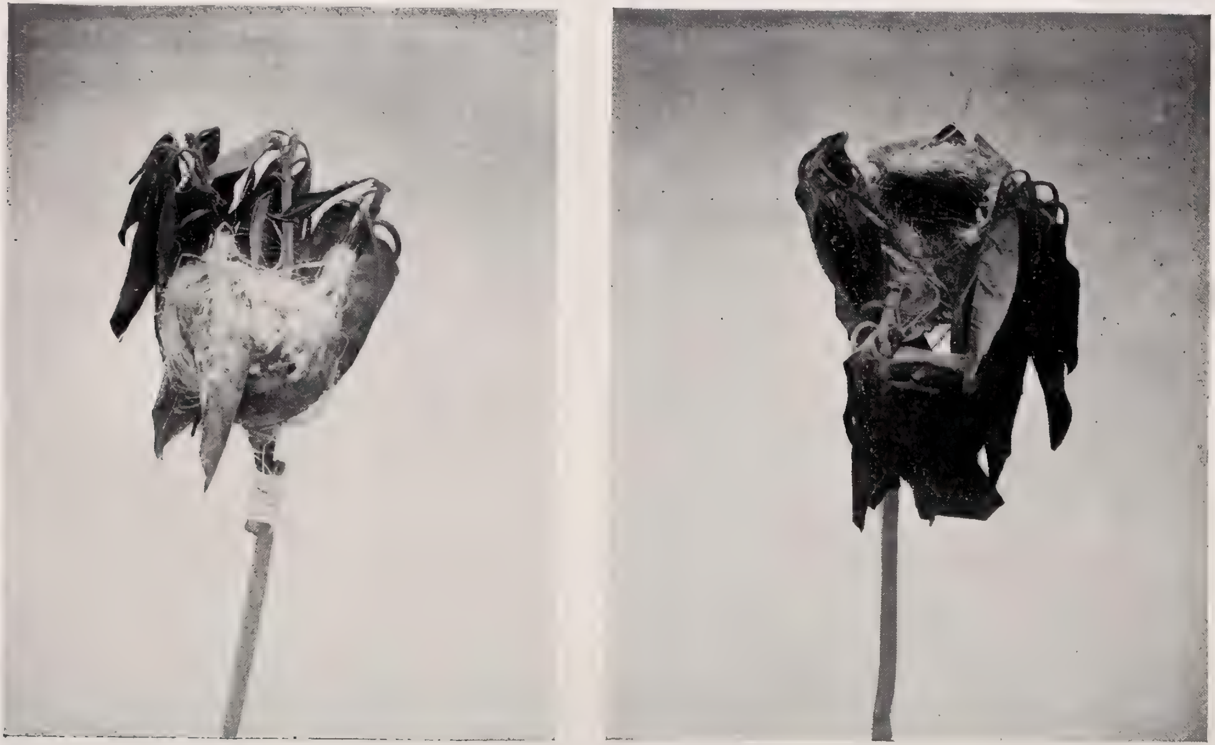
Our ever watchful Editor has asked me for a few notes on the nesting of *Zosterops viridis*. Zosterops are not bred every day, in fact our Hon. Editor was the first to ever breed

Zosterops, but his were the Indian species and mine are the African.

I purchased the birds in 1914, and by the merest fluke imaginable they turned out to be a true pair, and, what is of infinitely greater importance a breeding pair; only those who have kept a great many birds can possibly realise the true value of that expression. You may have six or eight pairs of birds in an aviary, all true pairs, in grand health and feather, and yet only one may be a breeding pair. That has been my experience repeatedly. So if you get a breeding pair of birds stick to them and don't break it up if you can possibly avoid it.

The White-eye is quite a familiar bird, very much the size and colour of our English Chiff-chaff. Its characteristic feature is the eye with a very distinct white rim round it. Of all the lovable little birds, with the disposition of the proverbial (but not actual!) Dove, commend me to Zosterops. They have absolutely no bad points. They are gentle, fearless, untiringly energetic, model parents, and very fairly hardy if not quite. No wonder I love my White-eyes, and feel very pleased to think I have fully reared two babies from two different nests, and now, am well on the road to rearing a third.

The first attempt at nesting this season, occurred at the very beginning of April in the bird-room. I took the risk and turned them out into my Grassfinches' aviary. It is not for me to praise my own, but it really is a nice aviary and for summer very nearly ideal. There is an abundance of cover and nearly always a wealth of bloom. My White-eyes simply revel in it. They very quickly settled down and by April 17th the first nest was completed and the first egg laid the next day. The nest in its pristine freshness was a marvel of architecture—completely spherical, almost $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter at the mouth and 2 inches deep. It was a cradle nest and the two subsequent nests have been the same. The nest was built of bast (raffia), fine grass, and tow. It was lined with horse hair but no feathers or hair. I am sending the nest to our Hon. Editor, to be photographed. It was built in an Aucuba, the leaves of which are now completely withered, as I cut the nest out of the tree. Both birds built the nest. In



Nest of African White-Eyes,
(front and dorsal views.)

Photos by E. O. Page.

fact I am of opinion that the cock bird first makes up his mind to have a family, or another one, as the case may be. Unfortunately the birds had already started to tear the nest illustrated to pieces, to build their second nest with; they have done this on each occasion.

I forgot to mention that in 1914 they built a nest, very high up in a Retinospora, and had two young, which only lived about 5—6 days. It was a far less beautiful structure than this year's and really, I was able to take no notes, as the nest was most inaccessible. What finally killed the young birds in 1914, was, I believe, green-fly from an elder tree. This year they have built low down each time, and I found them so fearless and trusting that I don't hesitate to drive the old birds off and take observations.

The eggs are smooth, fairly glossy—*very* pale bluish-green, oval-oblong in shape, and large for so tiny a bird. My four clutches had numbered 2, 3, 3, 2, and they hatched out as follows: 2, 2, 3, 2. In the second clutch one egg "disappeared."

The hen does most of the incubating, and sometimes starts sitting as soon as the first egg is laid. The incubation period is almost exactly 10 days, certainly not more, as I noticed the hen feeding 11 days after the first egg was laid. While the hen is incubating the cock occasionally feeds her, but I am inclined to think it is a case of mental aberration on his part, and, he forgets there are no chicks in the nest, for I only noticed him do it in the 2nd and 3rd nests of 1915. The usual thing is for the cock to relieve the hen and she then goes on a foraging expedition and returns after a comparatively short interval to incubate again.

For exactly seven days, the young Zosterops are fed entirely on small flies and other insects, which the parents catch in the aviary. On the eighth day the old birds took mealworms to their young, but I was most careful to pick out very tiny mealworms, about half-inch long, and as thick as a tie-pin. These were supplemented with gnats and flies, &c., until the tenth day when sop, and I believe, banana were given, sparingly at first, but freely afterwards. The parents were perfectly indefatigable and would come for mealworms all day long, and fortunately, I was able just then to give them plenty of attention.

The young, when first hatched, are flesh coloured and absolutely naked. They have long thick necks which shoot out at you and quiver in a way that makes you apprehensive of a dislocated neck. Dark feather tracts appear about the 5th—6th day, and by the 7th day the body is distinctly yellowish, with a little white down on the head, and very dark, almost black feather tracts. Progress is rapid for by the 8th day there is a distinct kind of hog's mane along the back and at the ends of the wings. The eyes begin to open about the 8th, and are quite open by the 10th day. On the 10th day, too, the quills split and one sees the faint indication of feathers. The primaries begin to grow very fast from now onwards. By the 11th day the colour of the feathers is becoming apparent, and so amazing is the progress that on the 12th day the young Zosterops is fully feathered, so much so in fact that the young ones left the nest on the 13th day. If I had not kept a most accurate diary, I should doubt my statements. It seems hardly credible that a young bird should leave the nest in under a fortnight. The birds are not nearly full grown then, but continue to grow for quite another ten days. The colour of the fledgling is almost an ashy yellowish-grey, with two distinct yellow moustachial streaks running down the neck. The tail is at first short and stumpy and very ridiculous looking, appearing to be a series of short brushes, stuck into the hind end. The white ring round the eye only appears gradually after the 19th day. At a month old the white-eye is quite distinct, but the colour of the young bird is very much paler than the parents. Twenty-two days after Zosterops No. 1 was hatched, the hen started incubating a fresh clutch, leaving the young bird entirely to the care of its father, who proved a most capable nurse. The hen continued to feed the infant when she came off. The young bird began to definitely fend for itself on the 26th day, but still took food from its fond parents. The second clutch of eggs hatched out 34 days after the first one. Three birds were hatched, One disappeared and another fell out of the nest. I suspected some other bird tried to purloin part of the nest, for it nearly collapsed, and I had to resuspend it. The remaining chick was fully reared, and is doing well. But in nineteen days from the birth of No. 2, the hen was sitting again on two eggs. The cock bird had to turn head nurse again, but this business was complicated by the elder child, for I regret to say the elder child proved a robber, so I named him Barabbas, for he repeatedly robbed his parents of the baby's breakfast, lunch, tea, and supper, and eat it himself. Sometimes he would wait till papa had placed the mealworms in baby's mouth and then deliberately rob the baby. However, he has mended his ways for now he is as unselfish in feeding the baby as his parents, and it is just as well, as all his parents' efforts are employed in feeding infant No. 3. One chick has again disappeared but the other is doing well. All four Zosterops are such good friends, and it is a pretty sight to see all four cuddling up together. I am wondering how it will be when the third infant arrives on the scene. Fortunately the same long clothes, short clothes, and other impedimenta that were used for Nos. 1 and 2 will come in as there has only been just time to "get them up" for the new infant, so there has been no need to look them out.

In conclusion, I will only add that quite apart from winning a medal, the breeding of my Zosterops has afforded me an infinity of pleasure. I feel that I have been more than a fairy god-father to my little Zosterops. I have been the bountiful and welcome grandfather. Even their little wickednesses have been sweet to me, and my birds would know me in my dressing gown—in fact, whisper it not, they *did* so know me. It may be many years before I shall see successive families in so short a time. At the beginning of my paper I said "Zosterops are not bred every day." Had I said month I should have been telling an untruth as regards my birds. One pair of Softbills is worth 20 pairs of hardbills when it comes to breeding. Such are my views at any rate. If my Zosterops have a fourth brood I should think that would constitute a fresh record. If they knew, I am sure they would try. On the whole I am inclined to give the first place in my affections to my Zosterops. Are you surprised?

Correspondence.

RUFOUS-BELLIED NILTAVA.

Sir,—With reference to Major Perreau's remarks on page 86 of our Journal, may I make the following observations about the occurence of the Rufous-bellied Niltava (*Niltava sundara*) at Muree. Major Perreau is quite justified in suggesting that I may have mistaken the Indian Blue-chat (*Larvivora brunnea*), for that species, as both birds are superficially somewhat alike; however, I am perfectly certain of my identification, as in addition to the fact that I do not have great difficulty in separating the two birds when seen in the Jungle, I took the precaution of securing specimens of both; as a matter of fact when collecting eggs in the Hills I reject any with which I fail to obtain a parent bird—except, of course, with the most obvious kinds. In the present case the nest taken on 30-v.-1911 was authenticated by the preserving of the female (skin No. 378), and the female was also shot (No. 384) from the second nest found on 3-vi.-1911. In addition to these two females I preserved a male (No. 383). These three skins, as well as some of *Larvivora brunnea* from the same locality are at present with Dr. C. B. Ticehurst, M.B.O.U., at Grove House, Lowestoft, and any member is welcome to inspect them.

I was aware that this was a notable extension of range, and accordingly sent a note on the fact to the Journal of the Bombay N.H. Society (Vol. xxi., p. 257).

In conclusion I have to thank Major Perreau for giving me an opportunity of removing a doubt from his mind, and possibly from the minds of others who may have read my remarks.

HUGH WHISTLER, M.B.O.U.,
Indian Police.

Gujranwala, Punjab.
23-v.-1915.

* * *

Birds of the Jhelum District and an Ornithological Diary from the Punjab.

By H. Whistler, I.P., M.B.O.U.

(*Continued from page* 135).

November 14.—Rode to Otu, the headworks of an important irrigation canal where there is a large lake formed by the canal dam which holds up the waters of the river Ghagga; this Lake is absolutely bare of reeds or grass, but under a mile away is another lake surrounded by trees and grass, hard by also is a third and smaller jheel. Those three lakes are the haunt, during the cold weather, of hoards of waterfowl, which from the extent of the water, and the absence of cover, find security without suffering much loss at the guns of sportsmen, though Sindhi plume hunters manage to snare a certain amount. On approaching the lake I was first struck by great patches of white, which soon resolved themselves into flocks of waterbirds. There were innumerable numbers of White Pelicans with black primaries (I did not manage to ascertain the exact species) which formed a wonderful sight as they soared high into the air in a swirl of innumerable circles; the morning flight (as I saw it a day or two later) was something to remember, as if a tangled skein of wool had been thrown across the sky. Flocks of Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*) and White Storks (*Ciconia alba*) were also feeding in the Shallows, and the tremendous clamour that arose when some of the flocks of waterfowl, numbering hundreds, took to wing, showed that they were Geese (probably all *Anser indicus*). These were the birds that caught the eye from a distance. Approaching nearer I could see black specks covering the surface of the water, as if shaken out by a gigantic pepper-pot. These were the Duck, and I defy any one to enumerate the species, Gadwall, Teal, Pintail Shovellers, Tufted Duck, and Spotbill (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), and Ruddy Sheldrake (*Casarca rutila*) were identified but there might have been everything or anything; one could only just pick out some of the nearer species, on the fringe of things. I did not distinguish any Mallard, which probably arrive a little later. Here on the mud at the water's edge was a flock of Demoiselle Cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*), and there standing on a patch of the dried mud already ploughed for cultivation were some solemn Black-necked Storks (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*), a little further off on the fields of young wheat were three Sarus Cranes (*Grus antigone*). Here and there along the water's edge were fishing Common Herons (*Ardea cinerea*) and nearer the dam than most of the other birds, White Egrets (probably *Herodias garzetta*), and Paddy Birds (*Ardeola grayi*), stood about on the mud. A solitary Flamingo was seen, but too far off to allow of the species being identified. Night Herons (*Nycticorax griseus*) were in the neighbourhood, but did not intimate their presence until dusk, which inspired their raucous calls as they flew to the feeding grounds. The White Ibis (*Ibis melanocephala*) was in small numbers.

Overhead an occasional Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) or Darter (*Plotus melanogaster*) would pass high in the air but the Pigmy Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax javanicus*) kept mostly to the weedy ponds near the dam which they shared with the Coots (*Fulica atra*).

Waders were hard to note amongst the swarms of larger birds but I saw a party of Curlew (*Numenius arquatus*), a big flock of Spotted Redshanks (*Totanus fuscus*), and Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus candidus*). Greenshanks

(*Totanus glottis*), Green Sandpipers (*T. ochropus*), Little Ring Plovers (*Aegialitis dubia*), and Stints.

The *Laridae* were represented by the Indian River Tern (*Sterna seena*), some Laughing Gulls (*Larus ridibundus*) and a large immature Gull which was probably the Yellow-legged Herring Gull (*Larus cachinnans*); a single Snipe (*Gallinago caelestis*) was flushed.

At the Dam itself there was another form of entertainment; although the sluices were shut, a small quantity of water was passing through and flowing over a long stone schute about 15 feet broad, an occasional fish going with the water; these fish were clearly visible, kicking and struggling as they passed over the schute, and there was a crowd of Kites (*Milvus govinda*) and Crows (*Corvus splendens*), trying their luck as fishermen, to say nothing of River Terns and a single Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) who are of course professionals at that game. The Crows did not do much, and mostly sat about talking of what they would do, but the Kites were industrious, though unlucky. They kept on the wing over the schute, making stoops at the fish as they passed over, but their success was small.

Between Sirsa and Otu in the morning I saw a flock of Sociable Lapwings (*Chettusia leucura*) and two or three Black-winged Kites (*Elanus caeruleus*).

November 15. Out early near Otu to look for some *Houbara macqueeni* of which we had received news, and after some search found two or three on the fields of sprouting grain crop on a very light sandy soil. We attempted to fly them with Peregrine Falcons, but were much hampered by several wild Luggers (*Falco jugger*) which worried our trained birds greatly. There are a good number of Black-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles arenarius*) about now, several flocks being seen.

A Merlin (*Aesalon regulus*) which passed overhead was the first I have noted this season. The Red-headed Merlin (*Aesalon chicquera*) was also noted.

November 16.—From Otu to Ranian: An adult Peregrine Falcon seen by my Falconer, who also netted a nice young Shikra (*Astur badius*).

To be continued.

Photos by G. E. Low.

Cape White-eyes
(*Zosterops capensis*).

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August, 1915.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Notes on the Cape White-eye *(Zosterops capensis).*

By G. E. Low.

Two pairs of these birds came into my possession in the autumn of last year, brought home by my brother from the Cape. One pair I sold and the other I accommodated for the winter in a roomy cage with a Yellow-winged Sugar-bird. All were fed on a sop of broken ice wafers and diluted Swiss milk (without the addition of anything else) and bananas, and throve well on this diet.

Photo by G. E. Low

Yellow-winged Sugar Bird.

I found a daily bath essential, as otherwise their plumage became matted with sticky food. All moulted out nicely early in the year and were turned into an out-door aviary in mid April.

I regret to say the Sugar Bird died on the 10th July when seemingly in rude health. The White-eyes are still apparently in the best of form. I say this with some hesitation, however, knowing how dangerous it is to boast about the health of any of my small family.

It is a pretty sight to see these little people searching the shrubs and every corner of the aviary for insects, occasionally making a dash into the air, when a crack of the beak intimates an attempt, at least, to capture some attractive winged morsel.

Every motion of their wee bodies is so full of grace and charm that I was quite prepared to squander many more plates, had I had leisure to do so, in trying to show some of their characteristic attitudes.

This morning the cock was singing delightfully while hunting for breakfast, flitting about the wires and prying into every nook and crevice, his subdued little warble, which one might imagine was being uttered for his own delight alone, being almost drowned by the varied contributions of other more lusty songsters.

No signs of a desire to breed have as yet manifested themselves.

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The Breeding of the Bearded Tit.

(Panurus biarmicus).

By Dr. L. Lovell-Keays, F.Z.S.

I do not think it ever occurred to me that I should, in July, 1915, be writing an article under the above heading. The event seemed so improbable, so remote, as to be almost impossible. But the apparently impossible has happened and now I take pen in hand, and with the utmost diffidence write the history of what, I believe, will ever be my greatest achievement in aviculture. And yet it has all happened so naturally, and withal, so easily, that I begin to wonder whether it is true, and if true, why these charming birds have never been bred before? Why should I succeed, why have I succeeded where others with far more experience, more knowledge, more skill, more patience, and more time, in fact more qualifications in every way, have failed? I ask myself the question a hundred times a day, and other people when I get the chance, but so far the question remains unanswered. I feel if one could find a satisfactory answer one would really further avicultural knowledge. Here we have a species costing 7s. 6d. a pair, fairly easy to keep, a native of our own land with its detestable climate, and as charming a softbill as one could wish for. And yet this wee bird has defied the medal hunters for years, and raised hopes only to dash them to the ground But at length the spell is broken and I don't doubt that young Reedlings will soon be an annual event in many aviaries in future. The difficulties are evidently not insurmountable nor success unobtainable. With this short prologue I will endeavour to give a description of my birds and their attempts at nesting.

Bearded Tits or Reedlings are well known to most. They are so charming, so perfectly inoffensive, and so interesting that they ought to be in many more mixed series. The first time I saw Reedlings I was "taken" with them, and like Dr. Amsler said with regard to the Orchard Finches, I felt I was going to breed them. Oddly enough our Hon. Editor always felt convinced I should too, and I believe I am right in saying that he never wavered in that opinion. I did not get much help from senior aviculturists: one told me they always had fits and died; another that you could only keep them in separate cages; a third that they needed some rare and unknown water-beetle larvæ to keep them in health, and so on *ad nauseum*. But as an aviculturist I was out to learn, so I decided to try my luck. Only one really gave me any encouragement. and that was Mr. J. Frostick, who assured me they were " easy to keep," according to his experience. These birds usually come on to the market in the spring, and it is a fact that one finds either a plethora of cocks, or a plethora of hens. Possibly they migrate as do Nightingales, in sexes. Contrary to general belief you may put three or four pairs of them in one cage and they do not seriously disagree, except at mealworm time or when fresh food is introduced.

They are very fond of bathing, and, of course, purely insectivorous. In a cage Reedlings are far more characteristic than in an aviary. They are very Tit-like in all their ways. In a cage they are not easy to keep in condition, but all softbills present greater difficulty in that respect than hardbills. Their diet should consist of the best obtainable insectile mixture, freshly and *properly* prepared. The food must not be dry and chaffy nor lumpy and stodgy. If you do not prepare your food just right you had better give up Reedlings before they give you up. They must have live-food as well, and, I have always given mine mealworms, and without stint. In a cage I always provide them with banana, and this seems to counteract the richness of the mealworms. In an aviary Reedlings will not eat banana but always will in a cage. I have never had a Reedling suffer from fits. They are, however, terribly prone to pneumonia at all seasons of the year. They are also very nervous birds, and Owls are, I fear, responsible for more than one death among these, almost my favourite, birds.

They are absolutely gregarious and very friendly towards one another. The birds pair up for life, and are most faithful and loyal to the spouse of their choice. They have an intense affection for one another, and it is a heart-rending sight to see a grief-stricken and anxious cock trying to cheer up his sick wife. He cuddles up to her, kisses and fondles her as though he knew that a parting was soon to be. I could fill a whole number of "Bird Notes" with a description of their quaint little ways and queer antics. They are never dull from the nursery to old age. Even as babies they show a very high degree of intelligence. They soon get to know their owner, and several have learnt to take mealworms from my fingers, but since losing a very tame and beautiful Violet-eared Waxbill I have given up having "spoilt children."

As I have already hinted, these birds are by no means robust and in spite of their being indigenous are by no means absolutely hardy. Pneumonia is their great enemy, and I do not think it safe to leave them out all the winter, but, I would strongly recommend that they be driven in at night. Even then mortality will be higher than one would wish.

It is, of course, obvious, that before birds will breed you must get them into the pink of condition, and, in attaining this end, diet must come first and foremost. Use the best soft-food (insectile mixture) that you can get, and it must be prepared with *boiling* water, to get the full flavour out. I use about a pound of soft-food a day, and I do not think an ounce a week is really wasted, unless it is badly prepared. A good soft-food should not readily turn sour and that is my objection to carrot. I speak not so much as an aviculturist as a medical man, but nevertheless if you find that birds do not eat up one kind of food, but do another kind, that is *primâ facie* evidence that the former kind of food is unpalatable, and the latter palatable, to the birds, at any rate. The final judges of all foods submitted to me for trial are the birds. They have to eat it, and not myself, but I can generally tell beforehand what they will or will not eat. Then, I think, I share another great secret with many other aviculturists and that is Yorkshire cheese, of which I give my birds 1½ to 2 ounces a day. I got the idea from Mr. Galloway, perhaps one of our cleverest aviculturists with the more difficult Softbills. I pass it through an ordinary culinary wire (not heair) sieve, 17 gauge, by means of an ordinary wooden kitchen spoon, and when the cheese is fresh it looks very like vermicelli. There is nothing like it for every kind of bird, Softbills, Finches, Waders, and in fact for birds of all sorts. It keeps the plumage glossy, the bowels regular, and, of course, being as it were, an animal food, makes an admirable substitute for live food. In other words it is highly nitrogenous. I believe I owe my success very largely to this cheese. The sieve is very quickly washed by simply putting it underneath the hot-water tap. Then as regards further items of diet these are *fresh* ants' eggs (or cocoons) and gentles. There is no finer food for birds than fresh ants' eggs, but they are hard to get and rather expensive. Moreover, they can only be obtained in the summer during fine periods. First of all let me say that the ordinary garden ants, unless you get plenty of "queen ants' eggs," are too small to be separated profitably. Wood ants are the best and you need have no fear of being stung. They really do not hurt in the least, and if they do bite it soon passes off and leaves no mark. They are big and very fierce, adopting a pugilistic attitude the moment they leave the "egg." But have no fear; I am still alive! You dig up the nest and sift out the eggs and smaller rubbish into a large bath of water. The larger bits of rubbish and clods of earth are left on the sieve and thrown away. The ants' eggs float as also do bits of stick and ant-hill *debris*. I have not discovered any way of eliminating this, but I am using a perfectly wonderful sample from Devonshire just now, in which these odd bits of flotsam and jetsam are conspicuous by their absence. The ants' eggs are then skimmed off and allowed to dry on paper in the sun. To put an ant's nest in the aviary is nearly useless, as the ants will very quickly remove every egg to a place of safety.

Gentles are our last resource—they are cheap and you can put a good saucerful out at a time, and they are not so quickly eaten as other live-food, a consideration when one has to be away for some hours. But they are horribly indigestible and I do not care about using them for very young or very small birds. Still in a large aviary they are almost invaluable.

Armed then with Reedlings, and with some idea as to how we are going to not only keep them alive, but in exhibition and breeding condition, we will now shift the scene to more domestic episodes. The sexes are, of course, very easily distinguished. The cocks have very distinctive black moustachial streaks, giving the bird quite an Eastern appearance. The moustachial streaks are erectile, and much used in courting. The hen also has erectile moustachial streaks, but as they are almost the same colour as the rest of the bird they are scarcely noticeable. The cock too, has a pretty grey head, but the hen's is fawn-coloured. And here let me remark that of some two or three dozen Reedlings I have possessed, seen or known, I have never found two hens quite alike nor two cocks at all unlike one another. The hens differ in colour, in markings, and in facial appearance to an extraordinary degree. This characteristic has been very helpful in watching an aviary where there were once five, but now, alas, only three pairs of birds.

In 1914 I possessed three pairs of Reedlings in an aviary with Hooded Siskins, Cordon Bleus, Firefinches, and other hardbills. As far as I can recollect all these pairs nested. I had three lots of young, one nest of which nearly produced the medal winner that year. The nestling, for there was only one survivor after the first week, fell out of the nest when full grown and practically fully fledged. This year

(1915) with five pairs, only two or possibly three have attempted to nest, but I have had three nests of young birds. But lest there be an ante-climax I will begin at the beginning.

In 1914 the Reedlings built their first nest during the third week of May and laid their first egg on May 22nd. The egg is a very fragile, frail-looking thing, about three-quarters of an inch long, and of an oval shape. The ground colour is pure white with numerous filiform markings, mostly at one end. These filiform, or hair-like, markings differ in number and intensity very materially, some eggs being almost white. The nest was deeply cup-shaped and built in a small travelling-cage, facing the light, high up in the corner of the shelter opposite the entrance to the flight. The nest was composed entirely of hay and fine grass, and lined with hair and feathers. The cock bird did most of the building and seemed the more eager to nest. One egg a day was laid for six consecutive days and the hen began to incubate on the sixth day, viz.: May 27th. Both birds took turns in incubating, and it is a curious fact that each different pair displayed different characteristics in this respect. In the 1915 and successful nest the cock bird did nearly all the incubating. In the 1914 nest the hen did most, and in other nests it has been equally shared. The cock bird never feeds the hen on the nest. In ten days' time, viz.: on June 6th, the parents began to feed the young on small insects and morsels from the insectile mixture. Being inexperienced I gave the old birds no help. Lurid tales of death from mealworms loomed before me—gentles had killed my baby Blue Sugarbird—green fly from an elder my first baby Zosterops. Bewildered I left the parents to forage for themselves. However, later on, I noticed a hen Robin bring up a brood of young Robins (from the egg), entirely on *my* mealworms, she would go and help herself from the seed-room. These babies throve on mealworms (they were giants, too!) so why not Reedlings. Thus from nature I learned my first great lesson in aviculture and metaphorically threw away all my books on aviculture into the fire as being old women's tales. When first hatched, Reedlings are of course tiny, quite naked, and of a darkish flesh colour—hideous and repulsive to a degree. My first brood died on the fifth day, and were then little lumps of disgusting looking blackness, shiny, bald and unloveable. They looked very much like a very old shiny black kid-glove. There were several more attempts, but the only serious attempt occurred on July 17th, when a nest of three Reedlings again hatched out. One infant quickly succumbed, but by dint of chopped mealworms and plenty of Yorkshire cheese the other two survived for about seven days, when the second died and I removed it -it was then in the black kid-glove stage and seemed to be thriving. This nest was made in a rush nest, again in the corner facing the light. On July 28th I had a good look at the remaining youngster. The eyes were open and one could see a distinct reddish-brown stripe along the back; black primary quills, dark crown, and a dark indication of the tail. Two days later the baby Reedling fell out of the nest and though apparently unhurt died the next day (July 31st), aged exactly fifteen days. The young bird was then nearly full grown, the feathers being well developed. Feet and legs yellow and rather large; beak smallish and flesh-coloured; gape yellow. Feathers on crown brownish with dark central streak; wing-feathers dark brown; body feathers light reddish-brown; tail-feathers dark blackish-brown. All the feathers well developed and no doubt the bird would have flown in a day or two. Thus ended my hopes of success for 1914.

With the advent of 1915 I had five pairs of birds in an aviary with a pair of Long-tailed Tits, and an assortment of Canaries and Goldfinches. These last proved a perfect pest. They monopolised all the best nests, destroyed the Reedlings' nests and made themselves very objectionable. So I removed all but the Long-tailed Tits, and things improved at once. My first pair of Reedlings to nest started operations on April 18th, and by April 22nd had laid five eggs. The eggs proved to be infertile, however. Several attempts were made at nesting, but all were spoilt by the Canaries, so in June I decided, as already mentioned, to turn the Canaries out.

During May and June I had several nests, but nothing more than chicks up to seven days' old and I began to despair, and nearly began to lose interest in Reedlings. However, I must record one rather human, little peculiarity. I noticed that when the hen fed the young she

Photos by E. O. Page.

Young Bearded Reedling (*Panurus biarmicus*).

lingered over the task as long as possible and would not let the cock in, as if fondling and gazing at her babies to see if they were real and really alive. The cock bird, however, would bundle in, stuff some food into the hungry babies mouths and rush off for fresh tit-bits. Always when either returned there was a high pitched twitter from the last arrival, an answering twitter from the other parent bird in the nest and then, sooner or later (later in the case of the hen and sooner in the case of the cock), the one parent would bundle out and the other in. For two days after the death of their babies the old birds would carry tit-bits in and look for their wee ones, but, of course, all in vain.

However, I was not to be denied success for long, for on June 17th the Reedlings began to incubate again and this time it was, oddly enough, the pair that won 1st prize at the Horticultural Hall last November. The cock bird did practically all the incubating until June 27th, when the birds started to feed. I provided very tiny mealworms for the first seven days. The cock bird was a splendid worker and by the way he went about it I somehow felt sure I should succeed this time. The hen, too, worked well, but not nearly so well as the father. On July 3rd I heard young calling and the way my small mealworms were eaten up rather terrified me. There were evidently more than two, but less than five young—I dare not look to see. On July 4th I first gave gentles and some excellent live ants' eggs. I noticed too, the parents removed the excreta, which, I was glad to see, were both voluminous and healthy. Surely they would pull it off this time, I thought. Feeding got more and more vigorous, and voices grew more and more lusty until July 10th, when, to my joy, a young bird left the nest. It was strong—perfectly charming—as active as an earwig, and could shuffle along with its wings quite fast. In colour it was darker than either parents, with a very dark longitudinally striped head, and with a very short tail. The next day, July 11th, two more babies left the nest, and our Hon. Editor kindly came with his brother, Mr. E. O. Page, and took some snapshots of the babies. Unfortunately the babies were not very good sitters, and we had to content ourselves with three snapshots of one baby.

At the same time Mr. Page took a very excellent photograph of a naturally constructed nest in a group of tall ribbon grass. It was cup-shaped, made entirely of broad ribbon grass and lined with fine grass and hay. It contained four eggs, but, the hen deserted, owing to the door between this and the next aviary being left open and allowing strange birds to come in. This, and the subsequent driving out of the intruders caused the hen to desert. The nest is, of course, like the nests found in the marshes and on that account most interesting. The way the birds had woven the leaves of the reeds into the nest was most clever, and made the nest very difficult to detect. This photograph is reproduced in this article, as also is the baby Reedling.

Photo by E. O. Page.

Nest and eggs of African White-eye.

But little remains to tell. The young birds grew very rapidly. The parents fed most assiduously, and I placed a saucer of food on the floor, with plenty of live ants' eggs on the top of the food. On July 18th the young birds were seen to help themselves freely to the ants' eggs. But, alas! on July 16th, I missed the hen and a few days later found her dead body. I mourned and grieved for my little bird. She had won me prizes at shows, borne me babies to gladden my heart, and, then, in the hour of my triumph, Death, the hateful fiend, had claimed her—claimed Reedling, the gentle one, the loving and faithful mother; claimed her who had striven to, and succeeded in, giving such joy and pleasure to me, a mere mortal. I would rather have lost £5 than my Reedling. My loss seems to have taken all joy out of the achievement, but I am consoled with the thought that the three babies are the image of their mother, and, their father is, perhaps, the most devoted parent that ever lived. What a consolation it must have been to feel she had satisfied her owner, and was leaving such a devoted father to look after the babies and mourn her death. I could not even recover her body until past recognition.

The last chapter is nearly written. A new era begins with the death of the devoted little mother, for on July 19th one baby left the shelter, took a good look round, and returned again, but finally slept out. Since then we have had thunder and lightning and torrents of rain, and I have had many anxious moments, but at the time of writing all three young ones are well and strong—more beautiful even than their parents; more engaging and winning than even the pen of an aviculturist can describe. In short, I think they are the most beautiful babies in the world, and I only wish the fond mother could see them now—not a sign of ungainliness or grotesqueness. They are simply perfect, with a furry head, warm reddish-brown body and short, almost black tail. We must leave them here, all unconscious of their fame. They are general favourites with the other inmates of the aviary, and as happy as sandboys. Only the father realises what joy chastened with sorrow means, but he does not tell his little ones he is thinking of her. Surely this is love indeed.

August 4th.—As we go to press I am able to report that all three babies are doing well. They are now, of course, entirely independent; have grown long tails but all conform to the likeness of their mother.

Cranes, Etc., In Captivity.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

(Concluded from page 173).

Flamingoes (*Phoenicopteridae*) which formerly used only to be seen in Zoological Gardens, are now kept by quite a number of aviculturists. They have much to recommend them, being, in spite of their quaint form, very beautiful amid suitable surroundings. They are also perfectly inoffensive in

Photo by E O, Page

Flamingoes at the London Zoo.

mixed company, and are reasonably hardy when they have got over the effects of their journey. Unfortunately when newly imported, they are decidedly "kittle cattle" to deal with especially the South American species. Being by nature mainly or entirely animal feeders, it is not surprising that they are apt to suffer from the change to a vegetable diet: new arrivals should receive whatever food they have been accustomed to while in the dealer's hands, plus soaked wheat, bread, and shrimps, very finely minced up and put in a pail of water. Until their plumage has recovered some of its natural smoothness and gloss, they should only be allowed access to a limited supply of water.

Flamingoes do best when turned out on a large lake with a fairly hard bottom. Small ponds with deep sticky mud do not suit them, but they will do well in a broad shallow swamp, even if the water is decidedly foul and stagnant in summer. During severe frost they are best driven under shelter, as, although they may not actually suffer much harm, they are evidently acutely miserable when obliged to stand for long on ice and freezing ground.

The larger members of the OSTRICH family (*Struthionidae*) are not difficult to keep in captivity when plenty of space is available. The African Ostrich has, I believe, rather a reputation for delicacy in close confinement, but when allowed access to a large grass paddock, it will be found hardy, long-lived, and absolutely indifferent to cold.

Under such conditions the hens lay freely in the spring and early summer months, and although it is not always easy to obtain fertile eggs and a cock bird willing to assist in the duties of incubation, there is no reason why Ostriches should not be bred and reared in England with the same success as on the Continent.

When allowed plenty of liberty Ostriches feed mainly on grass, requiring cabbage and biscuit during the winter months, and a good supply of large grit at all times of the year.

The cocks become very savage during the breeding season, and are always more or less unsafe.

EMUS (*Dromaeus novae-hollandiae*) have been kept and bred in more than one English park. They are perfectly hardy but have an inveterate habit of laying in mid-winter with the result that the eggs are usually frosted and only an exceptionally late clutch ever gets the chance of being hatched. It is said that the male bird alone sits, but the hen usually, though not invariably, assists him in caring for the young.

Emus cannot be kept in the company of any creature weaker than themselves, as they are most mischievous and spiteful in disposition. At the same time, they are, except when defending their broods, the most arrant cowards, and are easily put to flight if their would-be victim unexpectedly resists their attacks.

The Common Rhea (*Rhea americana*) is even better known in this country than the Emu, and when adult is perfectly hardy.

The cock bird alone sits and takes charge of the young, the hen being indifferent to her offspring, and at times even inclined to molest them.

Rheas are both polygamous and polyandrous, four or five hens accompanying a cock for some days, laying him a nest of eggs, and when he begins to sit transferring their allegiance to some other admirer. In spite of the extreme laxity of her morals the female Rhea shows quite a lively interest in the display which her mate performs for her benefit, wherein she differs from most hen birds who appear excessively bored by the efforts made to arouse their interest and admiration.

Young Rheas are rather delicate, but provided they have a sufficiently wide range and favourable weather (excessive wet and drought being alike bad for them) a fair number should reach maturity. Late-hatched broods require to be kept in a warm shed during the winter months, and both old and young must be provided with plenty of soaked biscuit when the grass becomes scarce and innutritious.

Rheas are difficult and unsatisfactory birds to bring up by hand with the aid of a foster-mother, and with every care large numbers suffer from rickets and have to be destroyed. Chopped spinach, dandelion, and lettuce, with moistened biscuit, make the best food, and a very little raw meat is sometimes beneficial; grit of course is a necessity. There is little doubt that want of exercise is at the root of many of the troubles from which hand-reared chicks suffer, and their health is much improved if their attendant can spare time to take them for walks daily. The little fellows soon learn to follow, and their absurd antics and confiding ways make them the most delightful pets imaginable. Adult Rheas should not, however, be encouraged to become too tame, as the cocks are then apt to become very savage in the nesting season. Strange to say, a tame male bird loses much of his ferocity after his brood has hatched, his instinct warning him not to risk his life in unnecessary battles, at a time when so many other lives depend upon him.

An albino race of the Common Rhea is not uncommon and is very pretty. Hybrids between *Rhea americana* and *R. darwinii* have been produced in this country.

Darwin's Rhea (*R. darwinii*) is a much rarer species than the one we have just been dealing with, and he is easily recognisable by its brown plumage mottled with dirty white. The sexes are much alike and it is a very difficult matter to distinguish the cock bird except by his demeanour in the breeding season.

Darwin's Rhea resembles the Common Rhea in most of its habits, and is indifferent to cold, but the chicks are more difficult to raise. They are subject to tuberculosis, gapes, and other infectious diseases, and need a wide range over short tender grass on perfectly clean ground (do not forget the value of a dressing of gas lime in autumn, and salt in spring for keeping ground 'sweet' for birds, and indeed for all kinds of animals). It is also most important that the sitting bird should have access to a good dusting place. If he has not, he will become badly infested with large voracious parasites which will transfer themselves to the chicks and seriously interfere with their growth and general well-being.

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Breeding of the Black Seed-finch *(Melopyrrha nigra).*

By Wm. Shore-Baily.

In January, 1914, I bought, from one of our lady members, a pair of Black Cuban Bullfinches (the above is the better name), also a lot of other small birds.

The sexes are alike, but from their demeanour I judged them to be a true pair, and to my delight, in the spring, they built a nest in a small conifer; but though young were hatched, unfortunately, they were not reared.

This year, after wintering them indoors, I turned them into the same aviary, hoping they would again nest and this time more successfully. Owing to the war and other causes, I have not had as much time as usual to devote to my birds, and on going to feed them on June 1st, was very much surprised to see a little black stranger disporting among the shrubs, as I had no idea that the old birds had been incubating. A diligent search failed to find the nest, and, it was only after two or three days that I thought of looking in the conifer, in which they had nested last year. Here, sure

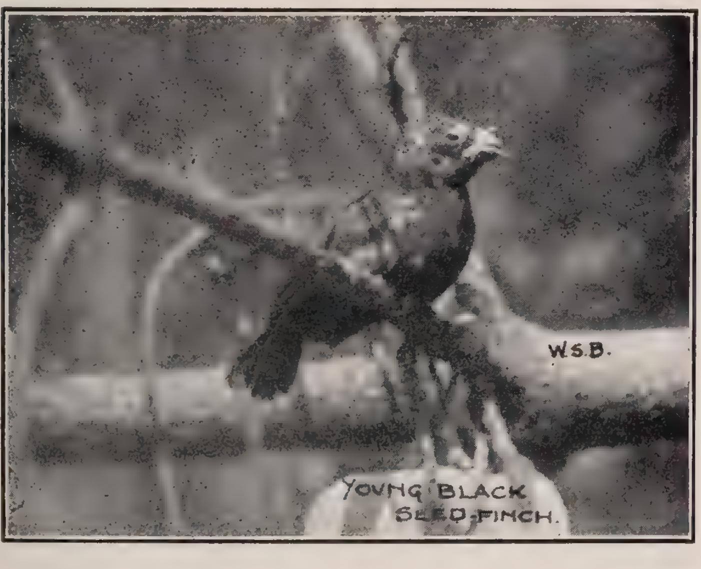
Photo by Wm. Shore-Baily,

Nest and eggs of Black Seed-Finch.

enough, was the nest, now containing their second clutch of five newly-laid eggs.

I had not thought of looking here, as the conifer was close to the entrance and pond, and owing to the dry season, was not covered with climbing weeds as it had been in 1914. The eggs were of a greenish-white ground-colour, blotched with dusky brown.

The little Bullfinch (Seed-Finch) was a curious little object; it had hardly any tail, and the feathers on the back of the neck were only partially developed, making it look as if it were wearing a ruff. Its large beak and bright black eyes added to the grotesqueness of its appearance. In fact it looked a regular little brigand. It was extremely active on the wing, and showed considerable skill in hiding in the laurels and other shrubs.



The parents fed it principally on mealworms and spray millet. The first food to which I saw it helping itself was seeding grass, but when it had been on the wing about ten days, it was always the first bird in the morning to visit the bread and milk dish, and it would carry off a piece nearly as large as its own head. On June 30th, I saw it kill and eat its first mealworm.

On June 15th young were again to be seen in the nest, and the old birds now began to bother me for meal-worms every time I entered the aviary. These they would masticate, rejecting the skins. Unlike the Weavers they would never visit the nest in my presence, and would, if I examined it, manifest their displeasure with a series of harsh chirps.

On July 1st two young birds left the nest, and on the same day in this aviary young of Zebra Finces and Sulphury Seed-eaters also made their exit; making quite a colony of birdlings. The young Zebra Finches are a great contrast to the Black Seed-finches; they look little gentlemen in their neat grey suits, and unlike the latter, which spend much of their time lurking amid the thick cover near the ground, seek out the highest and most conspicuous places for their camping grounds. The little Sulphury Seed-eaters take the middle course; they neither lurk amid the thick cover nor yet seek an undue amount of light, but can generally be seen, in their unobtrusive brown garments, on some inconspicuous perch about on a level with one's eyes. However, the little Black Seed-finches are my favourites, and I should not care to be without at least one pair in my aviaries, and I hope that my birds may be with me a good many years yet.

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The Breeding of the Masked Doves *(Oena capensis)*

By H. Bright.

My pair of this species have been with me three years. Last year they built as soon as I turned them out from their winter quarters, but did nothing more.

This year I put them into the same aviary, and again they commenced building operations at once, piling up a huge nest on the top of a deserted nest of the Red Mountain Doves. A clutch of eggs was duly deposited therein and closely incubated, but they failed to hatch out, and eventually nest and eggs were deserted.

A fresh nest was started at once in an apple tree, where they duly deposited their clutch of two buff-coloured eggs, but again failed to hatch out. I was much afraid they would give up their attempts at reproduction for this reason after their two failures, but I am glad to say they decided to "try again."

They still kept to the apple tree, but chose a loftier and more secluded site, so secluded in fact, that it was some time before I discovered the nest. The nest, though not very large in circumference, was piled up several inches high (this applies to all their nests), and the birds squat down so flat, that even with their long tails they are not by any means easy to see. Both parents assist in the duties of incubation, and they always changed about the same time every morning, but never when anyone was watching, and after waiting a long time I have moved on to the next aviary to come back a moment later to find the hen off and flying about for exercise while the cock had vanished thus it is not easy to find where where they are nesting, unless one happens to spot them in the act of building.

This time their efforts were crowned with success, and two young ones were duly hatched out. They were ideal parents and looked after the fledgelings well, and the latter left the nest in fine form. Unlike many other Doves they did not leave the nest until they were fully able to fly, and there was scarcely any difference in size between the two birds.

The young bear scarcely any resemblance to their parents save in shape and length of tail. I take them to be male and female, though neither have masks. The one I take to be the hen is slightly the smaller of the two. The other, which, I think, is a cock bird, shows a little more reddish-brown colour on the crown of the head, and a little more lacing on the breast.

The parent birds have ceased to take any notice of their progeny, and look like going to nest again.

[This species is a very shy breeder in captivity, and it has been a long period since any account of successful reproduction has been published, which gives special interest to the above notes. It would be of great interest if our member would retain them till adult, and then give us age and other details concerning the assumption of adult plumage.—Ed.].

My Little Owls *(Athene noctua).*

BY THE MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK.

(Continued from page 186).

One evening in late December, however, Mrs. Peeps was sitting near me on the top of a cage, when Peeps jumped up beside her. I expected the usual squabble, but although Peeps began to squeak at her much as he usually did when about to attack, his squeaks had lost something of their truculence and there was a new note in his voice, Mrs. Peeps was quick to notice the change and responded in a friendly way. A moment later the stormy past was forgotten, and the erstwhile foes had fallen desperately in love! I have watched many bird courtships; the extravagant display of the Blackcock and its polygamous allies; the refined and dignified advances of the Broad-tail Parrakeets; the tactless and immoderate wooings of the Dove family. But never in my life have I seen anything so curious, so charming and so wholly ridiculous as the first love-passages between Peeps and his mate. There was no "display" in the strict sense of the term, although the devoted couple, by half closing their eyes and appearing to erect the feathers of the facial disc, gave themselves an odd and it must be confessed, rather foolish expression. But the conversation that went on and the outpouring of "sweet nothings!" I had long been aware that Peeps possessed a very remarkable vocabulary, but never before that evening had I had any idea of its really wonderful extent; for nearly half an hour he and Mrs. Peeps, sitting side by side, whistled and crooned and squeaked and chuckled in every imaginable key. Mrs. Peeps remained in a crouching attitude, turning her head quickly at frequent intervals to gaze at her admirer and respond to his endearments. Peeps, close beside her, would occasionally bob up to his full height and, looking adoringly at his bride, would utter a deep hoarse note —evidently the most affectionate epithet in Owl language—to which she replied with a little soft call, and the stream of squeaks and chuckles would flow on as before, interrupted only by pauses for those gentle head nibblings which in the bird world take the place of kisses. After this there was no more quarrelling and Peeps and his mate occupied the same cage in perfect harmony. Hoping to induce them to nest I provided them with a box which I thought might suit their taste. They were much interested and spent a good deal of time inside, frequently using it as a larder, but in other respects being remarkably careful to keep it clean; this surprised me, for birds of prey are notoriously indifferent in matters of sanitation.

For several weeks nothing happened to mar the peace and happiness of the newly-wedded pair; then one day it occurred to me to start imitating the call of a little Owl to see what the effect might be. After a few moments Mrs. Peeps, in a state of great excitement, began to answer. Peeps, thinking that she wanted him, flew to her at once full of tender endearments and caresses. But Mrs. Peeps called on. Poor Peeps began to look puzzled and worried; his wife had called him and he had come as usual—why then did she remain unsatisfied? A moment later and the awful truth had dawned on him—she wanted someone else! In a flash his whole demeanour changed and he flew at her in a perfect fury, while she, as if aware of her guilt, made no attempt at retaliation, but only tried to dodge his avenging claws. Only with difficulty did I succeed in pacifying the outraged husband and healing the breach I had so unexpectedly caused in his domestic happiness. It seemed a shame, but I could not resist trying the experiment on one or two subsequent occasions and it always had the same result. At his mate's first call Peeps hurried up and lavished every attention upon her; then, finding that she remained unsatisfied, he lost his temper and went for her in a paroxysm of rage. Finally she grew cunning and discovered a way of attempting to satisfy her feminine curiosity (let us hope it was nothing worse) and at the same time of avoiding her husband's vengeance. As soon as Peeps had flown to her she would begin returning his caresses, interspersing each kiss with a call to me. Peeps was so far mollified by the assurance he received of his wife's affection, that he forbore to attack her, but he was obviously unhappy until the calling ceased.

Not long afterwards I received a further proof of Peeps' extraordinary jealousy. I had moved the Owls to a new room where for a time they were extremely happy and on the best of terms with each other. But one evening when the pair were out for exercise, Mrs. Peeps being engaged in amusing herself on the ground while her mate watched her benignantly from the top of the wardrobe, I noticed a sudden change. Every trace of benignity left Peeps' countenance, he gave a quick glance at his wife, looked hard across the room, while his wings began to droop and his back feathers to rise ominously; next moment he dropped like a thunderbolt on the unsuspecting Mrs. Peeps. She, for her part, was so much astonished at the onslaught that for a moment she hardly knew what to do; then in very natural indignation she turned upon her enraged spouse and a most distressing family scene ensued in which I was obliged to interfere. A judicious distribution of mealworms, however, soon established a better state of feeling and in a few minutes the pair were fondling one another as though they had never had a disagreement in their lives. But for several days in succession the same thing happened and I was at my wits' end to discover what it was that produced such a sudden and extraordinary resentment on Peeps' part against his unoffending and usually beloved wife. In the end, however, the mystery was solved. I noticed that Peeps' fits of passion always began when he was occupying the same perch on the top of the wardrobe, and on climbing to its level I found that it exactly faced a large mirror on the opposite wall. When Peeps was on the top of the wardrobe he could see his own reflection in the glass, and although he did not take much notice of it under ordinary circumstances, it was clear that he now regarded the third party as a rival for whose presence his wife was solely responsible—hence his sudden outbursts of jealous rage! On the wardrobe being moved to another part of the room, Peeps' good humour was permanently restored. By March the mutual affection of Peeps and his mate had reached its height, and I began to have great hopes of a nest. Whenever I gave Peeps a tit-bit of any kind he would go and offer it to her; indeed, so greatly did he enjoy practising the new virtue of unselfishness that in excess of zeal he would frequently snatch the morsel from her beak before she had time to swallow it in order to have the exquisite pleasure of presenting it to her again! Mrs. Peeps was hardly less devoted. If I gave her a mealworm, she would utter a little soft cry and scamper off to bestow it on Peeps. He, being unwilling to deprive her of the delicacy, would hand it back and so the little comedy would go on for quite a long time, neither being able to persuade the other to retain and swallow the gift. I imagine it is very unusual for a hen bird to bring food to the cock in the way Mrs. Peeps used to do—in fact I do not think I have ever heard or read of another instance. Female Falcons will bring food to the nest for the tiercel to distribute among the young, but that is a different matter.

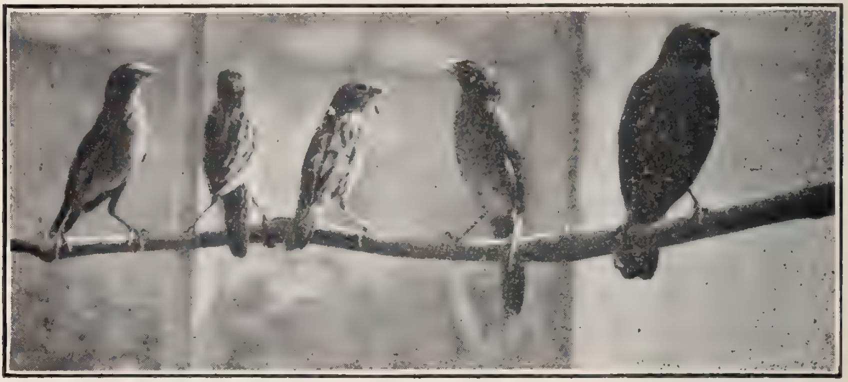
Peeps had another very quaint custom at this time: he would make a long and elaborate pretence of feeding an imaginary brood. Taking a piece of meat he would fly with it to the nest-box, his face meanwhile assuming the benevolent and somewhat inane expression I had noticed during his courtship. Once inside he would begin a rapid clucking or chattering noise, walking slowly about and occasionally lowering his head as if to place the morsel he was carrying in the open mouth of a hungry Owlet. If I put my hand near him when he was doing this he would often, in the absence of a more deserving recipient, come and push the meat gently into it—he who a few months previously had been ready to fly at me with beak and claw if I so much as looked in the direction of his larder. But Peeps' hopes and mine were doomed to disappointment, for the breeding season passed without any eggs making their appearance and there was nothing for it but to wait for another year. Peeps and his mate remained on fairly affectionate terms during the summer and autumn, although there were occasional quarrels between them. Mrs. Peeps was rather fond of pouncing mischievously on her lord when he was playing on the carpet and although I do not think she meant to hurt him, her frivolity annoyed him and he retaliated by driving her off rather spitefully if he found her occupying one of the higher perches in the room. The pair ceased, also, to share their food together, each having a separate larder, which the other respected. A recognition of the property or territory of a friend or rival, not wholly based on fear of superior strength, is not, as has been stated by some people, unknown among the lower animals. My owls certainly showed it and it may sometimes be observed with dogs—especially those which are only semi-domesticated—as well as with male fallow-deer.

To be continued.

Some Notes on Jackson's Whydahs.

By G. E. Low.

My brother brought me nine of these Whydahs, out of colour, from British East Africa last year. I might mention they were captured in a swamp in the neighbourhood of his house by his black servants, who were sent out to catch anything they could. I understand this Whydah is plentiful there and in the breeding season the dancing antics of numbers of cocks, in colour, can be seen plainly across the landscape as they rise and fall, their tails floating in the breeze.



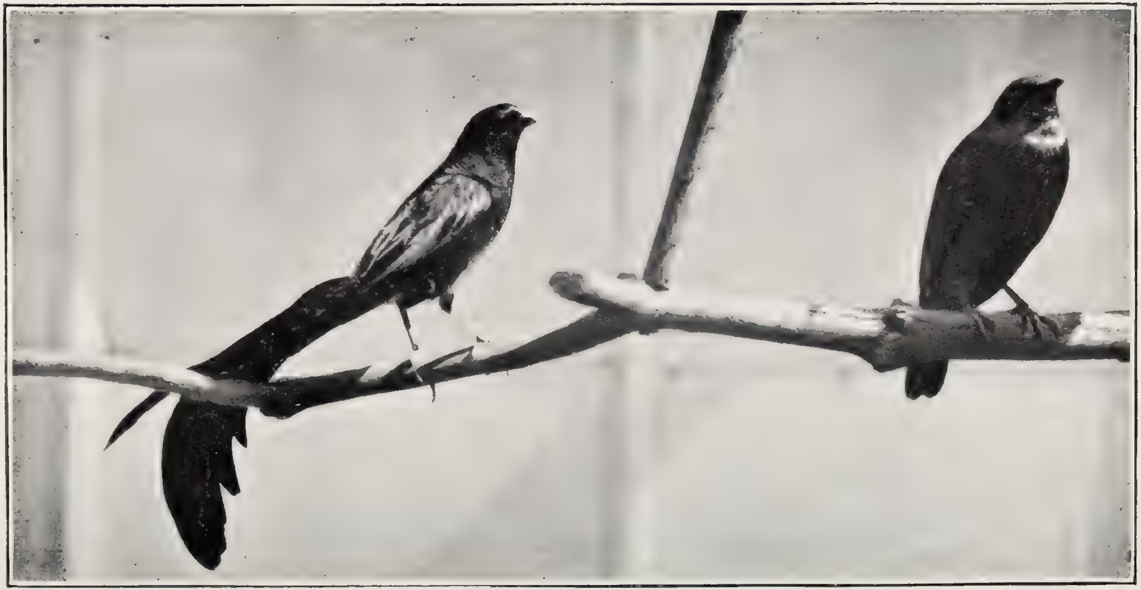
Left to right: *Photo by G. E. Low.*

1, 2 and 3—Hens, Jackson's Whydah.
4—Cock, Jackson's Whydah (out of colour).
5—Wedge-tailed Glossy Starling.

Of these birds, the species of which I only determined after they had been some time in my possession, four were cocks and five hens. One pair and the odd hen, I exchanged, one cock escaped, and I am left with two cocks and three hens, some of which appear in the photos reproduced.

The old cocks commenced coming into colour in November last, reassuming their undress plumage in May. The young cock now in colour began putting on his new suit in the end of May, and has only just completed the operation.

As regards determining the sexes when out of colour, size seems to be the chief point of difference, the cocks, in my experience, being considerably larger and with somewhat longer tails than the hens.

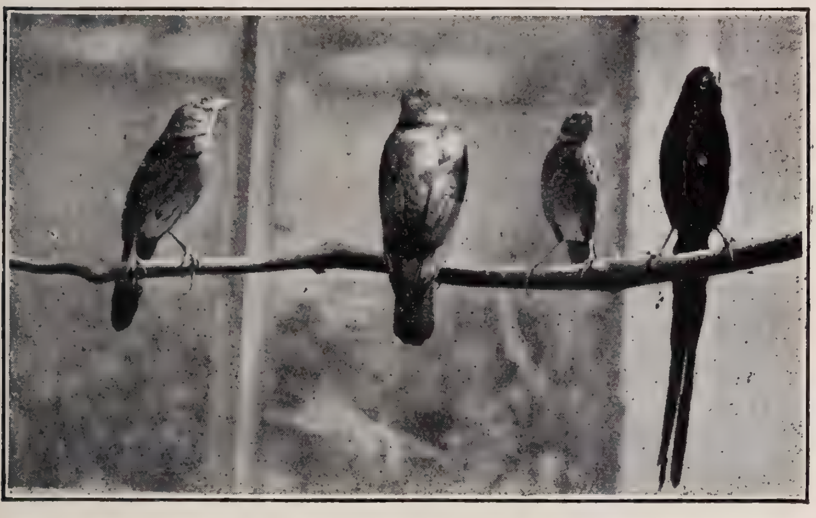


Left fig : Cock Jackson's Whydah. Right fig : Wedge-tailed Glossy Starling.

Photo by G. E. Low.

The habitual single note which both sexes make use of constantly, differs in the case of each sex, and the cocks have, even when out of colour, what they call a song, which at once identifies them.

When coming into colour, moulting only seems to take place in the head, neck, and tail; these feathers are replaced by the ruff on the neck and long black tail, the feathers of which spread vertically, not horizontally as in the undress tail. The rest of the feathers appear to gradually turn black, except the wings, which retain a certain amount of the undress colour.



Left to right : *Photo by G. E. Low.*

1—Jackson's Whydah, cock out of colour.
2—Wedge-tailed Glossy Starling.
3—Jackson's Whydah, hen.
4—Jackson's Whydah, in full colour.

As they have insufficient space in my small aviary, no attempt has been made to breed, but the cocks beat down the grass in a circle in one spot, after the manner of their kind, leaving a tuft in the centre.

With them I have only the Wedge-tailed Glossy Starling and Bullock's Hangnest, which appear in the illustrations, and I would much rather place the Whydahs, who seem peaceably disposed, in a mixed collection of small birds than either of their companions.

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Correspondence.

SEASONAL NOTES.

The Editor recently had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bright, and the exchange of avicultural confidences. After Mr. Bright's return north the following letter was received, which, with the exception of a few purely personal sentences, we publish in full, *with apologies to Mr. Bright for liberty taken with a private letter.*—Ed.

Sir,—On my return here, I found things fairly well among the birds, but for two rather annoying losses—the hen Melba Finch and hen Rosefinch. To-day my Red-headed Gouldian Finch (cock) was found drowned in the bath after a terrific thunderstorm, with very heavy rain and hail. The bath was very full and he must have been either too wet to fly out or hit by the hail. I think he has young ones too! It is most annoying, as I have no cock now, and the hen is a breeder. I have had this cock three years now and looked upon him as acclimatised to this part of the world, and he was aviary bred —the only Gouldians that have lived any time here have all been aviary bred ones—I must get another aviary bred cock from somewhere.

I find the birds have done fairly well in breeding: Long-tailed Grassfinches (both the Yellow- and Red-billed species) have young on the wing in each aviary.

Masked Grassfinches, and Cuban Finches have also young on the wing.

A young Ruficauda Finch which is out of the nest bears a strong resemblance to a Cherry Finch.

Bicheno Finches, Bib Finches, and Bronze Mannikins have young in the nest. I think Pileated Finches also have young in the nest.

The Orange-headed Bullfinches (*Pyrrhula erythrocephala*) are building again, but in a very exposed position this time, right on the top of a privet bush, just under the top wire-netting, and absolutely unprotected from rain and wind. However, I can't alter their choice, so must hope for the best, but if she lays and settles down to incubating I must try and put a square of glass over the top - they are making a great fuss over the building.

Quail Finches are still sticking to their nest in the grass, in spite of the heavy thunder-rain of the past few days, and keep taking dry feathers in all the time—it is wonderful what they can stand.

My little Mexican Collared Finches built a cup-shaped nest again, on the same site where they hatched out two broods (none reared) last year, but it was pulled to pieces by some other bird before she laid—nothing more doing at present.

Siberian Bullfinches are incubating their second clutch; the first clutch, though fertile, did not hatch out.

Pectoral Finches have built in the ivy near the ground—other Mannikins are nesting, but it is impossible to tell if they are really sitting or not, in spite of their having built nests and apparently sitting in turns.

A cock Spice Finch has paired up with a hen Bengalese × Tricolour Mannikin hybrid. I think they may have young as I notice a lot of droppings round the nest entrance, but they are next the Bib Finches, and I cannot be sure if the noise comes from one or both nests.

There are many other nests and, I think, more young Australian Finches of sorts, but none about yet, except those already mentioned.

The Pileated Finches have a platform about eight inches long in front of their nest. They are taking in fruit and insects frequently so I think there are young birds within.

The Yellow-throated Sparrows (*Gymnorhis flavicollis*) are nesting, but they are a very shy species and I cannot find the nest.

My various Doves have done very well; the following have young on the wing in various enclosures: Masked (2), Violets (2), and Diamond, Peaceful, and Red Mountain have young.

Cressington Park,
28/7/'15. HERBERT BRIGHT.

STRAY NOTES.

Sir,—I have just been home for the week-end, and have had a few hours with my birds, etc. Items of interest to me I am sending to you as they may interest others; I am also including results to date:

Indian White-eyes (*Zosterops palpebrosa*): Last year my pair of this species hatched out twice, but did not succeed in rearing any young. This season the same pair have hatched out three broods of 3, 2, 3: of the two first broods no young flew; but from the last one young bird left the nest a week ago, and it looks like living. The parent birds are now constructing their fourth nest this season.

Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*): My luck with this species has not been great. There is one young bird in the nest; others have flown but have not reached the stage of being independent of their parents; others have been hatched out but have not flown, and again some clutches have not hatched out.

Ruficauda Finches (*Bathilda ruficauda*): This charming, but often disappointing, species are now incubating a clutch of five eggs.

Diamond Sparrows (*Steganopleura guttata*): Have done a little better with these; three young are on the wing but not yet independent of their parents. One young bird flew quite early in the year, but its life was a short one. The parent birds are now incubating another clutch of five eggs.

Red-headed Finches (*Amadina erythrocephala*): This species was quite prolific with me last season. This year there are six or seven young birds independent of their parents and another not quite independent. One or more pairs are again engaged in the duties of incubation.

Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*): Twelve to fourteen in all have been reared this season; of these four are not yet independent of their parents, but strong on the wing; and several have been sent away to other aviaries, where, I hope, they are doing well and enjoying life.

Thorpe,
14/7/'15. (Sec. Lieut.) W. A. BAINBRIDGE:

[It would be very helpful if members could give, or suggest, the reasons which they think were responsible for failures with certain species to rear young, as, for instance—Diamond Doves in the above. Of course Sec.-Lieut. Bainbridge has been away on service and unable to take observation, but others are more fortunately placed and we press this point upon them.—Ed.].

BREEDING RESULTS, 1915.

Sir,—We wintered three pairs of Parrot Finches (*Erythrura psittacea*) out of doors last winter, in a large aviary with unheated shelter.

First pair: Nested early and hatched out, but the young were found dead in nest some time in March.

Second pair: Three were hatched in the beginning of June, of which one was found dead half out of nest, and, on being removed and carefully examined it was found that its tongue was injured, presumably bitten, whilst feeding, by one of the old birds. It had evidently stopped feeding, as crop was quite empty. The other two were fully reared, and are now fending for themselves; they are very fine birds, just showing red chests.

Third pair: These also nested, and have reared one youngster. As the nesting place was not discovered it is impossible to say whether there were others.

The first pair are building again.

Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*): I had in one aviary four cocks and one hen; three hens having died during the winter. Curiously enough, the first clutch hatched out were fully reared, consisting of four hens and one cock. So there are now five complete pairs in the aviary, all of which are already showing signs of nesting. The original pair have another lot this morning, only six weeks after the first brood left the nest, but I cannot yet say how many there are. Is it possible that the original pair bred the he to order for the unmated cocks?

Other birds are nesting. A Quail Finch which I thought was a cock has laid six eggs, on six consecutive days, on the ground (in the grass) but did not sit. They were presumably infertile as there is no cock of this species in the aviary. I would much like to buy a cock.

Tower House, Streatham,
15/7/'15.

R. ARNOLD.

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Birds of the Jhelum District and an Ornithological Diary from the Punjab.

By H. Whistler, I.P., M.B.O.U.

(Continued from page 204).

November 17.—At Ranian. The country here is open and studded with low thorn bushes growing on a sandy soil, with here and there a stunted tree. The ground is honeycombed with the burrows of a small Jerboa rat, and Larks, Lugger Falcons (*Falco jugger*) are very numerous and an occasional Short-legged Buzzard (*Buteo ferox*), draws attention by the white in his wings and tail. Both species doubtless consume a quantity of the Jerboas which may be seen looking out of their burrows on all sides. There are a few Kestrels about and my Falconer saw a Barbary Falcon and a Sparrowhawk.

November 18. As we went out early in the morning to fly my Hawks at Partridges a Falcon passed which looked like a very dark Saker (*Falco cherrug*). So we hastily prepared the decoy Hawk with the "paros" and at the first flight the wild Falcon came and was caught. At first sight in the hand even the captive was taken for a Saker, but a closer scrutiny revealed the fact that it was a very large and dark young Lugger Falcon of the year, which we kept to train.

A Short-eared Owl (*Asio accipitrinus*) flushed.

November 19.—At Ranian. Attracted by the appearance of a small Chat which did not seem quite like anything I knew, I shot it and found that I had secured a specimen of Stoliczka's Bush-Chat (*Pratincola macrorhyncha*); it is a plain bird of the Whinchat type with a good deal of white on the tail, and but little appears to be known of it save the fact of its occurrence in winter in North Western India.

Some Eastern Meadow Buntings (*Emberiza stracheyi*) found in stunted tree jungle.

Two Short-eared Owls (*Asio accipitrinus*) flushed.

November 20.—Returned to Otu where the Water-fowl were still about as previously described.

In the evening my Falconer and I went out to look for Peregrines in a patch of wooded cultivation to one side of the big lake, and sure enough flushed a fine Falcon from one of the first trees approached. She settled in a tree a short distance away, and we tried her both with the decoy Hawk and the net with a pigeon decoy. But although she came to both in turn, it was only half-heartedly, for her crop was bulging, and we did not catch her. Finally as the net was up an Eagle (*Aquila vindhiana*) made a fine stoop out of the sky on to my Pigeon, killing it at once and putting an end to our netting operations. It was a job requiring some care to extract the Eagle from the net with due respect to its formidable beak and talons!

Close by there was a huge Peepul tree, and in it proved to be the eyrie of a pair of Pallas' Fishing Eagles (*Haliaetus leucocoryphus*) whose wild screams I had heard ringing out over the lake. This was a huge structure of sticks, thickly lined with coarse grass and containing three hard-set eggs; it was placed high up on a side-bough but was easily reached. There were several fish-heads in the nest.

Two or three Common Indian Nightjars (*Caprimulgus asiaticus*) found in a small grove; I flushed them many times but they kept on returning to the same spots. Without marking the exact spot as they alighted it was impossible to see them on the ground, so motionless did they sit, and so closely did their plumage blend into their surroundings.

A Sparrow-Hawk and a male Kestrel noted; a Barn Owl (*Strix flammea*) caught in a well.

November 21.—From Otu back to Sirsa. A King Vulture (*Otogyps calvus*) seen.

Two White Ibis (*Ibis melanocephala*) noted in the compound; they are now bold enough and not averse to scavenging round about the neighbourhood of the cookhouse.

November 22.—Some thirty or more Brahminy Ducks or Ruddy Sheldrake (*Casarca rutila*) came to feed in the morning in some newly irrigated fields.

November 23.—The Ruddy Sheldrakes found again at the irrigation in the morning as well as some Redshanks (*Totanus calidris*), Spotted Redshanks (*T. fuscus*), and Green Sandpipers. A small gaggle of Geese also passed over. Great numbers of *Hirundo rustica* were hawking about over the water. In some rough marshy ground near by I counted 13 White Storks, three White Ibis, one Black-necked Stork, and a few White-necked Storks.

I received a very fine old male Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter nisus*) which had been caught in the verandah of a bungalow in the early morning.

November 24.—Again visited the irrigated fields and found that in addition to the birds noted yesterday, there were a couple of Common Teal and five or six Green Lapwings (*Vanellus vulgaris*)—the first that I have seen this winter.

A Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) seen; this is a rare bird in these parts now that the summer residents have all gone.

November 25.—The Western Blossom-headed Parrakeet seen again--flying very high and calling loudly as on former occasions.

Two Short-eared Owls (*Asio accipitrinus*) flushed from a field of coarse rushy grass.

An Eastern Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia jerdoni*) seen in a Kikur tree; I was attracted by the sweet but low song

Hirundo rustica is still in numbers about the irrigation.

The Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*) is still to be found about here and there.

November 26.—In the early morning I awoke to hear the rattling call of a Thrush and was just in time to see the bird disappear over the trees—almost certainly a Black-throated Thrush (*Merula atrigularis*) which I fancy is rather a rarity in these parts. A male Purple Honeysucker (*Arachnecthra asiatica*) out of colour noted—the majority have gone some time ago.

My Falconer reported seeing a Barbary Falcon (*Falco barbarus*).

November 27.—About mid-day my Falconer rushed in to say that as he was returning from the Bazaar he saw a Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*). soaring near the house and chasing a Kite; so we hastily fastened the "Paros" on to the decoy Lugger and ran out to an open field near by. There was no sign of the Falcon, only plenty of Kites, and a few Eagles in the sky, but the Lugger was launched into the air and had settled after the first flight when the Saker suddenly appeared flying straight for it; it closed with the Lugger on the ground, and was immediately caught by the nooses—a good example of the deadliness of this form of Hawk snaring. My man ran up and was just in time to save both birds from an Eagle, which was hurrying to join the fray and lift the booty. This proved rather a lucky capture, as the Saker, although small, was a handsome bird in adult plumage, and one that had been trained before and had either escaped or been released; for the scars in its eyelids shewed where they had been "seled" or sewn up on the former occasion of capture; even more conclusive a proof was its behaviour; for a couple of hours afterwards it took a crop full of food, and shewed that it remembered the Falconer's call. I have great hopes that this bird, which after being trained has had a moult at liberty, will make a first rate Hawk.

The big flight of *Hirundo rustica* again seen and with it a Sand Martin or two (*Cotile* sp.?). Also another Eastern Orphean Warbler.

One or two flocks of Eastern Stock Dove (*Columba eversmanni*) noted.

I was forced to shoot a very beautiful young Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) in the striated plumage which flew up to attack one of my Peregrines when I was out hawking in the morning.

November 28.—A female or immature male Blue-throat (*Cyanecula suecica*) seen.

November 29.—While watching a big native festival in the city I was much struck by the fearless behaviour of the Kites (*Milvus govinda*) which would swoop down and pick up food from the ground in front of the shops, and this regardless of the crowds that thronged the streets.

November 30.—Two eggs in a nest of the Indian Ring Dove (*Turtur risorius*).

ERRATA: Page 74 line 10 from bottom, for "*Gallinula*" read *Gallinago*. page 75 line 5, for "list," read *fist*.

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Late News.

AN AFRICAN CONSIGNMENT: Our member, Dr. Hopkinson, recently arrived with the following species:—

40 odd Quail Finches (*Ortygospiza atricollis*).
10 Spotted Firefinches (*Lagonosticta rufopicta*).
1 Vinaceous Firefinch (*L. vinacea*).
36 Common Firefinches, Cordon Bleus, etc.
1 Brown-necked Parrot (*Poicephalus fuscicollis*).
2 Senegal Parrots (*L. senegal*)
1 African Ring-neck Parrakeet (*Palacornis docilis*).
2 Stone Bush-Fowl (*Ptilopachys fuscus*).

Dr Hopkinson really had wonderful luck with the above, there was not a single casualty from a few days after catching and the first fortnight of their stay in this country—the birds arrived in exquisite condition and plumage and in consequence some of them should breed in English aviaries this season. We congratulate Dr. Hopkinson on his success.

A GOOD RECORD FOR 1915: We congratulate Dr. Lovell-Keays on his successes during the current season. From a letter dated July 25th, we extract the following list:—

African White-eye (*Z. virens*)—3 now incubating fourth clutch.
Green Avadavat (*S. formosa*)—3, incubating again.
Common Firefinch (*L. minima*)—11 from two pairs.
Virginian Cardinal (*C. cardinalis*)—3, three more half-grown in nest.
Californian Quail (*L. californica*)—15—all hatched were reared.
Diamond Dove (*G. cuneata*)—3, incubating again.
Bearded Reedling (*P. biarmicus*)—3.
Zebra Finch (*T. castanotis*)—3, nesting again.
Yellow Sparrow (*P. luteus*)—1, nesting again.
Napoleon Weaver (*P. afra*)—3 left nest, July 25th.
Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*A. nigrigenis*)—2.
Cockateel (*C. novae-hollandiae*)—7.
Rosella Parrakeets (*P. eximius*)—3, three more in nest.
Cactus Conure (*C. cactorum*)—1.
Budgerigars (*M. undulatus*)—10—12.
Passerine Parrakeets (*P. passerina*)—4 still in nest.
Gold-breasted Waxbill (*S. subflavus*)—3 still in nest.
Australian Finches have not yet started to nest.
The figures indicate number of young reared.

We congratulate our member on the success achieved, which may be taken as an illustration of what can be accomplished in a series of natural aviaries, combined with intelligent care and observation.

A CONSIGNMENT OF INDIAN AND BRITISH EAST AFRICAN BIRDS AND MAMMALS. Our member, Mr. E. W. Harper, who has been resident at Nairobi for the past four or five years, has recently landed a series of birds and mammals. The Indian birds include four species (marked *) at least which have not previously been exhibited at the London Zoo, though one of the quartet, the Small Minivet, has been exhibited on more than one occasion by our member, Mr. A. Ezra.

Among the Indian birds were the following species:

Purple Sunbird,
Scarlet-breasted Sunbird,
White-eye (*Z. palpebrosa*).
Green Iora.*
Babbler* (not yet identified, probably Wren-Babbler),
Black and White Tit.
Green-backed Tit.
Pied Bush-Chat.
Himalayan Siskin.
Yellow-throated Sparrow.
Small Minivet*
Gold-fronted Chloropsis.
Bay-backed Shrike.*
Coral-billed (Himalayan Black) Bulbul.
Coppersmith Barbet.

Giant Barbet.
Golden Oriole.
Lanceolated Jay.
Green Fruit-Pigeon.
Streaked Laughing Thrush.
Scarlet Rosefinch, and
See-See Partridge.

The British East African species were:
Brown-capped Firefinches (*Lagonosticta brunneiceps*).
Crimson-ringed Whydahs (*P. laticauda*).

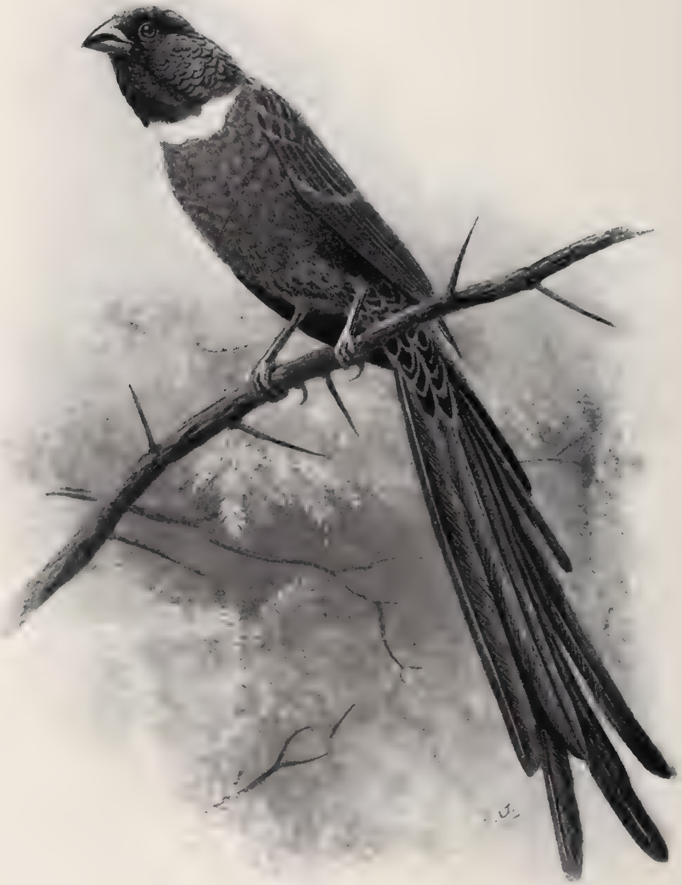
Among the mammals landed in good condition are: a rare Pallas' Wild Cat, Mountain Sheep, and an Orang-utan.

Zebras, Hybrid Zebras and other mammals were imported from Africa to India.

Among the birds the Green Iora, is, we think, new to aviculture the Brown-capped Firefinches are very rare, and the Crimson-ringed Whydahs are also rare, and as both male and female are included they are unique, for the female (*P. laticauda*) has not previously been imported alive.

The birds had been ingeniously packed in shallow cages, which slid into a case, having fine mesh netting doors, back and front, fitted with locks, each case accommodated three rows of the shallow cages and when locked up the birds were safe from rats and other vermin, and had ample light to feed by.

Mr E. W. Harper has already a long list (50 to 60) of presented species "New to the Zoo collection," to his credit. On the present occasion he increases this by four, which are marked with an asterisk in the above list.



Drawn from Life. AVIAN PRESS PROCESS.

Red Collared Whydah (*Penthetria ardens*).

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SEPTEMBER, 1915.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Breeding of the Red-collared Whydah
(Penthetria ardens).

BY W. SHORE-BAILY.

This handsome Whydah has already been bred in captivity, but I understand that very few details of the episode were obtainable, so our Editor has asked me to let him have a short account of the operations of my birds.

This pair of birds came into my possession in rather a curious manner and I had better recount the details. In the autumn of 1913, Focklemann advertised some Gold-collared Paradise Whydahs at 7s. per pair, so I instructed him to send me two pairs. On their arrival I found that three of them were identical with the Paradise Whydahs I already possessed, but the other one was decidedly darker and larger. On coming into colour in the spring this bird developed the fan-tail and red-collar of *Penthetria ardens*. All last season he remained a bachelor and was a bit of a nuisance, as he chased the other Whydah and Weaver hens continuously, and, I think, prevented some of them from nesting.

This year I turned him into an aviary containing some Paradise Whydahs, two pairs of Yellow Weavers, and three cock Crimson-crowned Weavers. For these last Mr. Allen Silver kindly procured me a hen last December, which ultimately proved to be a hen Red-collared Whydah, or this story may never have been written. On introducing this bird into the aviary both the Weavers and the Whydah showed her considerable attention. In fact they gave her no rest. In the middle of June I noticed that the supposed hen Crimson-crowned Weaver looked like nesting, but I never at any time saw her carrying nesting materials. On July 1st I saw that her tail was carried very much to one side, as if she were sitting in a nest a size or two too small for her, so I decided to have a thorough search to see if she really was incubating. Sure enough, there was the nest, right at the top of the first laurel bush I examined. It was very small for the size of the bird and not unlike some of the Weavers' nests (*vide* plate of Nest of Napoleon Weaver for comparison), being a domed structure with an entrance at the side. It was roughly constructed of grass and quite unlined. It contained two, rather large, white eggs, which had the appearance of having been incubated for two or three days. It was obvious from the exposed position of the nest, and the very flimsy nature of its construction, that there would be little chance of her rearing young unless some shelter were provided; so I had my man place a sheet of galvanized iron on the wire netting, immediately over the nest, thus protecting it from the direct effect of heavy thunderstorms. (This is a plan I have adopted with

Hen Red-collared Whydah with mealworm in beak.

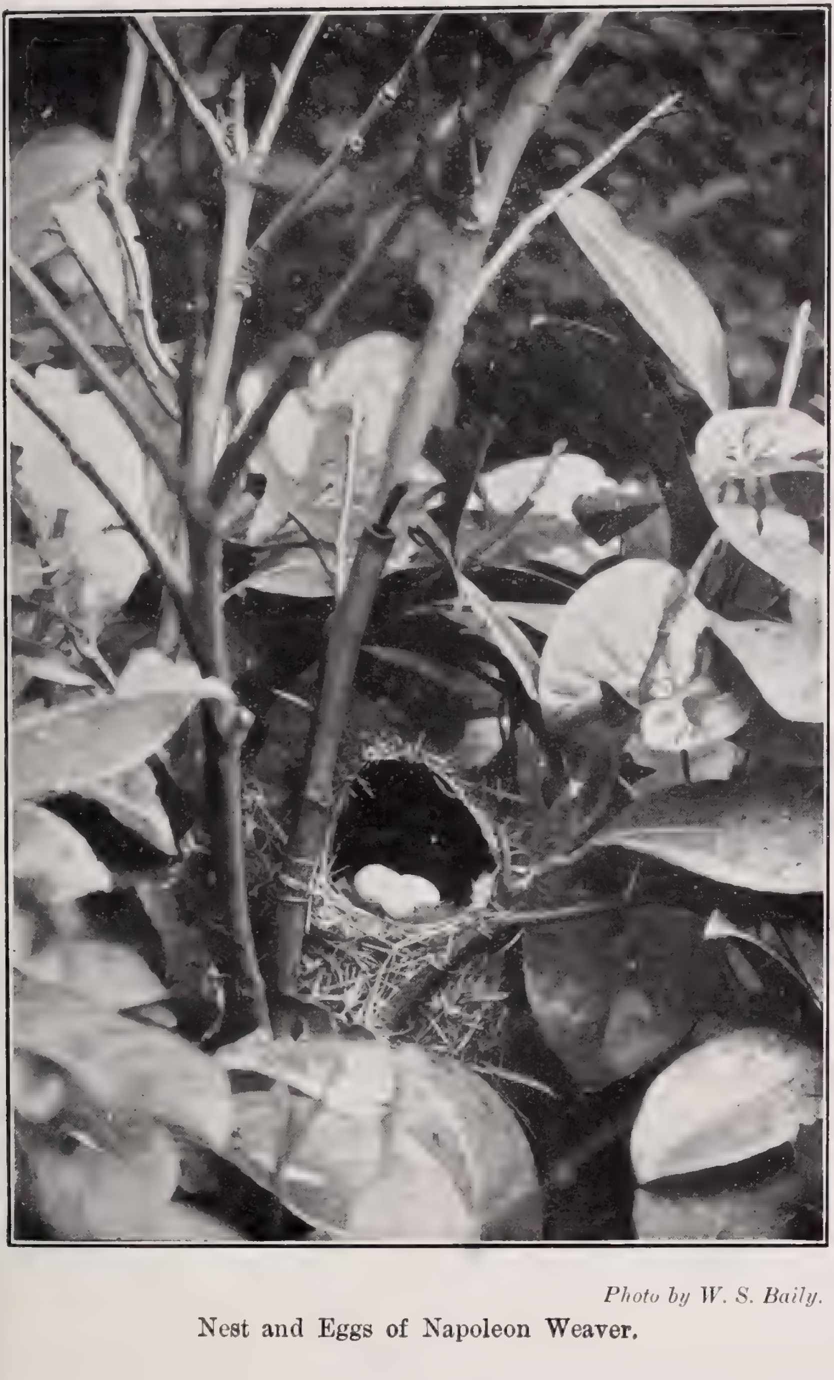
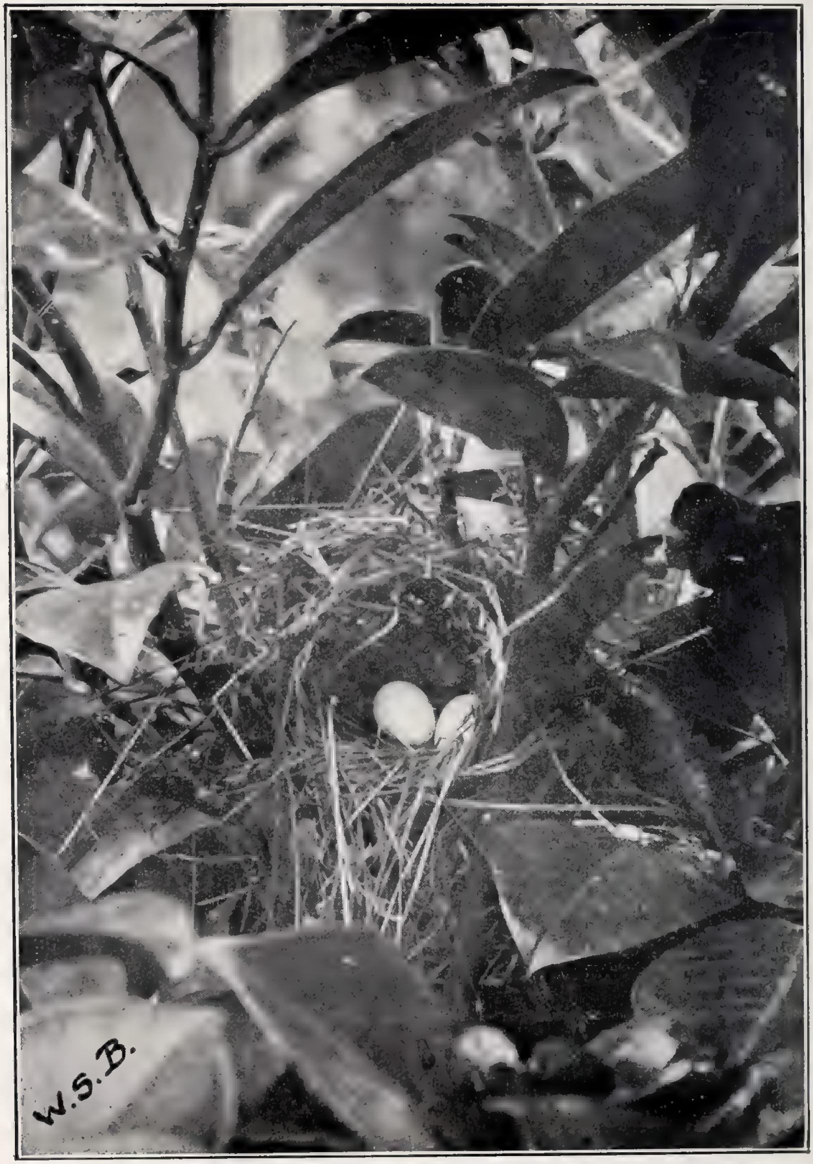


Photo by W. S. Baily.

Nest and Eggs of Napoleon Weaver.



Nest and Eggs of Red-Collared Whydah.

all nests in my aviaries this year and it has been most successful). The hen sat very steadily and her tail became more and more at an angle from her body, so much so that it quite spoiled her appearance. However, she appeared to care very little for that, and on July 10th she was rewarded by the appearance of two weird and naked little objects.

So far I had been under the impression that I stood a chance of winning a medal for rearing Crimson-crowned Weavers, but now the Red-collared Whydah began to assert himself, and it was pretty obvious that he was the joint owner of the nest and its occupants. He had always been practically the King of the aviary, and now none of his subjects had a moment's peace. He was almost continuously on the wing, and the Crimson-crowned Weavers had a particularly bad time—they hardly dared show their heads outside the thickest cover. He now spent his restful moments, what few he had of them, on a leafless branch of the laurel, close to the nest. From this coign of vantage he would make a swoop at some hapless occupant of the aviary, with his fine tail spread out like a Peacock's. It was marvellous the speed at which he would dart in and out of the bushes and shrubs; every moment one expected to see him come into collision with some of the numerous obstacles in his path; but not he, his tail seemed to enable him to turn at right angles even when going at full speed. I never saw him actually hurt any bird, but there was no question as to his alarming them; and one can readily understand this, as the noise he made with his wings and tail was considerable. On one occasion when I was photographing the nest he made a swoop at me and quite startled me for the moment. All this time he made no attempt to feed the young ones, nor has he done so since they have left the nest—the entire rearing has been done by the hen. At first seed and minute insects, taken on the ground, were used, but when the young were beginning to feather, I supplied mealworms. All food was swallowed by the hen and regurgitated. On July 18th the young opened their eyes for the first time and were beginning to feather well. On the 23rd they were fully fledged and completely filled the nest, so I decided to try and get a photo of them before they left it. This nearly led to disaster, as on my trying to make them hold up their heads properly, they objected and promptly jumped out. Neither could fly, so I had no difficulty in capturing and replacing them, but to make them stay there was a difficult matter; however, with patience I succeeded and got a very good negative, but after all, my labour was in vain, as I accidentally dropped the plate when printing from it. I always like to get photos of the nests and eggs, as well as the parents and young birds, whenever possible, and, in doing so, I am afraid that I sometimes run some risk of causing the birds to desert their nest, but so far I have had no ill-luck in this direction. I guess the birds are getting used to me and my camera, although to most of them a man with his head wrapped up in a focussing cloth must be a sufficiently alarming looking object.

Young Red-collared Whydah hiding on Nest, The next day both birds had left the nest and my hopes of rearing them fell to zero. As every aviculturist knows, when a young bird leaves the nest, every other bird's beak in that aviary is against it. Moreover, just at this time we were experiencing a series of very severe thunderstorms, in any of which the young birds, if caught unsheltered, would have had little chance of surviving. However, the mother bird was a perfect little gem, as she enticed her offspring into the shelter of a laurel bush, where they were comparatively free from these dangers. The cock Whydah also now justified his existence, as he suffered no bird to come near his little ones. Woe betide them if they did! They would certainly depart minus a feather or two. For the next few days I had many anxious moments, as the weather was very bad, and, to make matters worse, just when they required extra live food, the supply of mealworms gave out. Luckily I was able to get a few from a neighbouring miller, and these with the help of wasps' grubs kept them going.

In colour, the young ones resemble their mother, but are more buffish in hue. One was much larger than the other and this was the lightest in colour. On July 31st their tails were beginning to lengthen and they were strong on the wing. The larger of the two was now quite as big as his mother. Mealworms and wasps' grubs were now given them by the hen without first having been swallowed. By August 7th both were practically as big as their mother, and were well able to protect themselves from the assaults of any of the other birds in the aviary. The hen was still feeding them, but they were also helping themselves, especially to mealworms.

NOTE.—On August 31st was again incubating in the old nest. The eggs this time were pale bluish-green, thickly mottled with brown

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My Little Owls *(Athene noctua).*

BY THE MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK.

(Continued from page 227).

The anniversary of his honeymoon was not far off, when, sad to relate, I began to notice that Peeps was ailing. He fed well and was quite plump, but his activity and high spirits deserted him and he allowed his plumage to get dirty. What his illness was and whether I could have cured him I shall never know, for one night an accident overtook him which hastened the end. On being let out he had flown, as he often did, to the top of his small travelling cage which happened to be standing on the edge of the wardrobe. As he hopped from back to front, the cage overbalanced and fell with a crash to the ground with Peeps underneath. He lay quite still with wings spread wide, and for a time seemed paralyzed, though he retained sufficient presence of mind to bite me sharply when I picked him up. In a few minutes, however, he was able to stand and move about and I felt more hopeful, but alas! from the day of his injury he drooped more and more, and a week later he died.

Poor Peeps! In spite of his quick temper he was a most affectionate little fellow and at all times the most intelligent and amusing of companions. My room seemed sadly empty without the little grey figure and strangely silent without his quaint conversation which so well expressed all his needs and feelings. No longer would an impatient nibble at my ear remind me that dinner was late, nor would the soft round head be lifted for me to stroke and the bright yellow eyes, gazing into mine, close in sleepy content as I answered the appeal. After the death of her mate Mrs. Peeps seemed to grow shyer and her lonely calling reminded me so painfully of the loss we both had suffered that I decided to give her her liberty. There was little fear that she would be unable to find food for she must have hunted for herself before she came to me, and at the time of her release was as quick and strong and in as perfect condition as if she had never known captivity. For a few days she stayed about the house and once came back for the food we put out for her; then she drifted away, probably with a fresh mate, and for all I know may be still alive.

It was more than three years before I kept another Little Owl, for somehow I felt that Peeps could never be quite replaced and I had not the heart to make the attempt. One day in February, however, an adult bird was brought in with a badly broken wing, and I resolved to adopt the sufferer and see what I could do with her. Like Mrs. Peeps, Kirrie, as I afterwards named her, was a very gentle bird and, even when handled, made no attempt at retaliation or self-defence. Her taming, however, was a long and difficult matter. This was, I think, largely due to the broken wing which set at a very awkward angle owing to the fact that she would never allow a bandage to hold it in its proper place. Consequently it was always getting in her way and tripping her up, and once over on her back she was helpless, especially on a smooth surface. In her terror at being unable to get away she would grip the wing convulsively in her claws, driving them in so deeply as to cause considerable bleeding. For many weeks my efforts to tame her were unavailing and even when hungry she would never touch food until she was certain I had left the room. One morning, however, she fell over on her back in a sudden panic and tore her wing so badly that I was obliged to bathe it with warm water. This process, which one would have imagined would have been both painful and alarming, for some strange reason reassured her, and, on being put back into the cage, she took several mealworms from my hand and swallowed them eagerly. After that we got on better, but the broken wing continued to be such a source of pain and annoyance that I ultimately decided to have it completely amputated. The operation, which was performed by a skilful veterinary surgeon, was most successful and apparently caused little pain. It greatly assisted Kirrie in the freedom of her movements, and when she grew tamer she sometimes played with the carpet in a rather subdued way.

Kirrie lived for nearly six years. She was a gentle little thing with a considerable amount of intelligence, and I grew very fond of her. But, of course, she was always a cripple, and like Mrs. Peeps she never got tame enough to enjoy being petted and stroked. She very soon learned to return to her cage when told, and even if I were in bed I had only to say "Kirrie, go in," and she would trot obediently home without my having so much as to raise my head from the pillow.

In spite of her nervousness she was often quite ready to come and sit on my knee and talk to me until I could almost imagine I had Peeps back again. When she wanted food she would remind me by nibbling my finger with gradually increasing energy, but sometimes when she was doing this a sense of her temerity would suddenly strike her and she would look up quickly into my face with a comical expression of alarm which said plainer than words "good gracious, I hope I haven't made him angry." She used to be so funny that I could hardly help laughing at her—a fatal mistake, as the most suppressed titter would send her back into her cage in a state of great alarm. Her fear and disapproval were equally marked if I happened to cough or frown (she liked being talked to in an ordinary voice and answered my remarks by her own, readily), but what disgusted her most was any attempt on my part to imitate the call of one of her own kind. I flatter myself that this was not owing to the badness of the imitation, as I have often succeeded in deceiving wild birds and making them come quite near me; rather I think it was that she considered that there was something uncanny about the fact of an Owl's voice proceeding from a man—or she may have believed that she was listening to the ghostly lament of some of her kindred that I had slain and devoured! I only heard Kirrie call loudly once during the whole time I had her and the cries of her relations in the garden usually left her quite unmoved. She never seemed to want a mate so I did not take any trouble to provide one. Kirrie's food consisted mainly of small birds as these were easiest obtained, but I think she really preferred mice and would catch live ones with great dexterity considering her crippled condition. On one occasion a Blue Tit entered my room and actually flew into her cage in a moment of panic. To my surprise she made no attempt to seize it, although, when, a minute later, the foolish little bird killed itself against the window as I was trying to release it, she accepted the corpse gratefully and devoured it at once. Kirrie lived longer than any of my other Owls and remained in good health until last summer when I noticed that she was ailing from no apparent cause. She grew rapidly worse and became subject to peculiar and I fear painful spasms, which in conjunction with the fact that for several days she had cast up none of the bones and feathers of her prey led me to suppose that she was suffering from some obstruction in the stomach (I believe I am right in saying that an Owl has no crop). I tried various remedies and, although she rallied slightly when placed in a very hot room, the improvement was only temporary and after some days she died. The post mortem showed that she was a victim of tuberculosis a common ailment among captive Owls, but one from which I had hoped that careful feeding and scrupulous cleanliness would have kept mine free and I was not a little disappointed.

Before her death Kirrie had had two companions of her own kind, with neither of whom she was at all inclined to be friendly.

The first was a poor little fellow that I picked up with a bad injury to the head, evidently due to the attack of some large bird which came across him soon after he had left the nest. The sight of one eye was completely destroyed and the eye itself was terribly inflamed. He never appeared to be in pain, but I rather think his brain was affected, as his behaviour was peculiar in many ways. After the first day he fed readily from my hand, but took no notice of food placed on the ground in front of him. He was absolutely without fear of anything, but he never uttered a sound, not even when he saw and heard Kirrie whom I imagined he would mistake for one of his parents. He was very active especially in the evening, and flew strongly, though he often struck the walls of the room which he appeared unable to see. On the ground, however, he avoided obstacles, and if I called to him from the opposite side of the room he came across to me in a hesitating fashion, which showed that he was not entirely blind or deaf. He lived in this condition for about a fortnight and then died rather suddenly while I was away from home.

His successor was a bird of a very different stamp. She (for I am inclined to think it was a female) had been taken from the nest by one of the village boys and hand-reared. Unfortunately she must have been teased a good deal by her owner or his friends—it is a very easy thing to make a young Owl bad tempered—for when he grew tired of her and gave her to me she was the most perfect little demon imaginable. She was not shy and would feed readily in my presence, but if I put my hand near her or attempted to touch her she flew at me in a fury and bit and scratched with such energy that I was soon compelled to wear a glove—especially when cleaning her cage, a process to which she much objected. For several weeks I could do nothing with her and though, like Cowper's hare,

> " She duly from my hand received
>   Her pittance every night;
> She took it with a jealous look
>   And when she could, would bite."

At length, however, she did become rather more amenable, allowing her cage to be cleaned without protest, and taking her meals with a moderate degree of gentleness, though she could seldom repress a little yell of angry defiance as each mouthful was handed to her.

Whether I should have succeeded in completely exorcising the evil spirit which possessed her I shall never know, for one morning the window was left open accidentally and she flew out to join a bachelor Owl who had been serenading her for some nights past. She stayed about for a few days but we failed to recapture her, as her suitor appeared to be supplying her with food, and she only once took a dead Sparrow we put out. Let us hope that she rewarded his devotion by becoming a faithful and loving wife—a rôle, however, which I find it difficult to imagine her playing with any success.

Those who have troubled to read this article will, I fear, be likely to come to the conclusion that I have been guilty of exaggeration in describing my pets' intelligence. If so, I can only advise them to hand-rear a Little Owl and see for themselves, assuming, of course, that they have the proper facilities for keeping one.

Food is the chief difficulty, a regular supply of freshly-killed mice or sparrows being essential to the well being of the small Owls. As my birds were regularly let out for exercise I found a light cage of zinc and wire netting about three feet square and provided with a flat perch quite sufficiently large to accommodate them. At the bottom of the cage was a sliding tray on which I used to put a few sheets of newspaper. Sand may be used but it is more troublesome and less cleanly, and on no account must it be allowed to get mixed up with the food and swallowed. An old carriage rug may be used to cover the top, back and sides of the cage, and this should be soaked in boiling water at least once a month—otherwise it is certain to become the abode of parasites.

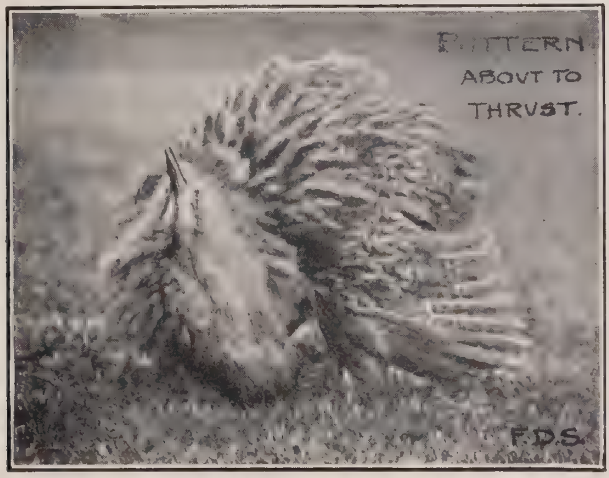
An equally charming and, on account of its minute size, even more suitable house pet than the Little Owl, is its African relative the Pearl-spotted Owlet (*Glaucidium perlatum*). A tame one I saw a few years ago was the most charming midget imaginable, and I would have given anything to possess him. He appeared scarcely more than half the size of a Little Owl which he resembled in miniature, and he possessed the diurnal habits and many of the charming ways which made my Peeps a companion whose memory will never fade.

◆

The Bittern and Spoonbill.

By F. Dawson-Smith.

In days, long gone by, when the British Isles were less densely populated, and when large tracts of swamp were undrained, the Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris, Linn.*) and the Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia, Linn.*), were familiar objects.



The Fenland district was the most favoured *habitat,* as may be imagined, and there "the boom of the Bittern was heard in the land" frequently, and Spoonbills could be found on the shores searching for mollusca. In these days the Bittern's "boom" is rarely heard and the Spoonbill is chiefly conspicuous by its absence. Cultivation of the land, and the zest of the collector have combined to drive these birds to the countries where they can dwell in comparative peace.

The Bittern is of a retiring disposition, remaining amid the shelter of the reeds during the day, and becoming more lively as darkness advances. Then it sets forth to seek food, which is of a "variety most charming"—small fishes, mammals, birds, and frogs. The Bittern does not often fly, and, if driven to use its wings, it is but for a short distance, when again it will seek shelter amid friendly reeds.

During the day it can sometimes be mistaken for a reed or a stick, standing up very straight and trim by elongating its body and neck, until it actually resembles a serviceable walking stick! Nobody who has not seen one of these curious birds can understand how well it can hide itself from the most lynx-like eyes. I had one for some considerable time in my possession. He would stand silent and immovable beside a post, and often have I feared he had managed to escape until, on searching carefully around his aviary, I had passed and re-passed him, standing absolutely still by a post or branch. Never a quiver betrayed his presence until I almost or quite accidentally touched him, when he became suddenly alive and unmistakable! He instantly altered his tactics, when he realised he was discovered. He swiftly crouched in the curious way as shown in the photo. When disturbed he always moved away in this crouching attitude and would slink along until he found another hiding place. The Bittern is always interesting to study, whether in nature or captivity, but it is not a friendly bird as its chief object in life is to keep concealed, And one has to keep a sharp look-out for its bill, which can inflict a very spiteful and painful "jab." You can better understand this if you realize that in crouching he has shut up his long neck into a sort of concertina shape, and this formidable neck and beak can dart sharply and swiftly upwards or forwards without the slightest warning, into a kind of spear. Thus you learn how very well able he is to defend himself, and attack anyone attempting to handle him. This species is quite easy to keep in captivity. Sufficient water to paddle in, and a supply of animal food will keep him in health for years. My bird fed freely on raw meat (chiefly horseflesh) cut up into convenient sizes; and fish scraps served in the same way. He was also keen on small birds and mice, but his biggest treat was a surprise offering of live fish, placed in his water. A sudden gleam would replace a bored expression in his wary eye and he would elongate himself into a fishing rod before you could say "knife." Out would dart his wicked beak, the fish was caught and tossed down his throat, still wriggling. I have seen him swallow fish varying in size from a sprat to a good sized herring, with equal ease.

The Bittern has not, as far as I know, bred in captivity and it is doubtful if any young have been reared in England in a wild state for many a year. They are found in Holland, where they build their nests of reeds and sticks close to the water, or among the reeds. The hen usually lays four or five eggs of uniform pale brown. It is a difficult bird to study in the wild state as its natural shyness cannot be overcome, but its habits can be observed perfectly in captivity, where it assumes those curious shapes that distinguish these denizens of the swamps and reeds.

SPOONBILL
F.D.S.

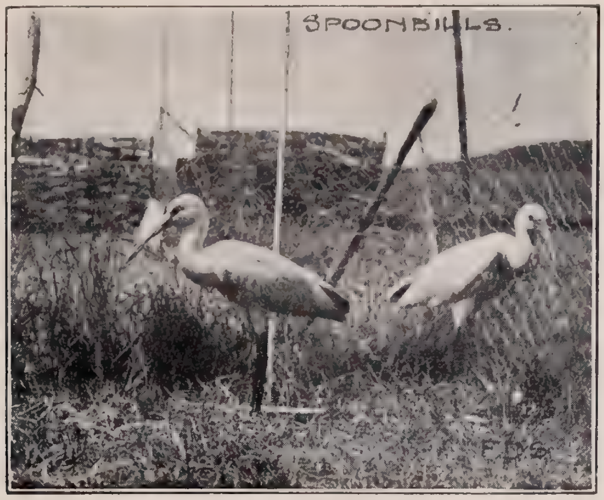
The Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia, Linn.*) is another bird that has been harried and driven away from England. Like the Bittern it can be observed in numbers in some parts of Holland. It is not a shy bird and can easily be studied in the breeding season, when it nests in colonies among the reeds. The nest is placed close to the water's edge, and is made of the same material as that which surrounds it—reeds and flags,—in which the eggs, usually four in number, are deposited. The Spoonbill is a silent bird when adult, but the youngsters make plenty of sound. I had four of these birds at one time and the young all called quite loudly for food when hungry. They were all birds of the year and continued their curious cry until six months old when it ceased, and thenceforward they were silent. It was rather comical to see them walking up and down their aviary, shaking their heads and "crying."

The Spoonbills are gentle birds and never interfere with or bully their smaller brethren. They are badly built for offence; their spatula-shaped beak being ill-adapted for thrusting. In this respect it presents a big difference from the Bittern. The latter bird has a beak like a foil, but the Spoonbill has a foil with a button on it. The bird realizes this and never attempts to stab forward.

In the later summer the Spoonbill departs for the warmer districts of Europe and Africa where it spends the winter months, returning again to its breeding haunts with the springtime. Small parties of Spoonbills are seen annually on the East Coast of England, usually in twos and threes. There can be little doubt that these birds would nest in this country if permitted to do so in peace. But the sight of this stranger with the large and uncommon form causes him to be shot by some man with a gun who is out to kill, and also probably thinks a glass case is more suitable for this gentle and interesting bird than the shores which it graces by its picturesque presence.

Spoonbills feed on small reptiles, fishes, molluscs, aquatic insects, shrimps, etc., and may be fed on the same provender in captivity. A fish diet, I found, was preferred to any other. This is far less expensive than it reads. All fishmongers have, daily, a large quantity of "waste" which consists of odd scraps, and heads of fish. They are usually glad to find somebody who will take this "offal" (as they term it) off their hands free of charge. This should be cut up into small pieces with a chopper, and it makes a splendid and highly relished diet for the Spoonbill. To give exercise and amusement the fish may be buried in soft mud or dropped into the water, where the bird searches with his bill and fishes it out. It is then thrown forward and jerked down the throat.

Another delicacy which they greatly appreciated was earthworms. These were either dropped into the water or taken from the hand most gently and quietly. The Spoonbill is a well-mannered bird and never snatches. They make excellent pets, quickly becoming ridiculously tame and friendly, and will follow their owner about like a dog. Of course, if allowed to run loose about the lawn, as mine were, they should either be pinioned or have one wing clipped, in case of a sudden temptation to explore unknown land, and probably get lost, in which case "the man behind the gun" would sooner or later secure an unexpected trophy to stuff and place triumphantly in a glass case. The accompanying photogrpahs give some idea of the graceful Spoonbill, taken in captivity while in my possession. I have not added a picture of the Bittern in his "hiding" attitude, but if you get a thick oak stick with a handle, and place it in the ground among some bushes or sticks you will get the exact effect he presents when he conceals himself under that disguise!



◆

Visits to Members' Aviaries and Birdrooms.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(*Continued from page* 94).

In October, 1914, I was spending a few days with Mr. G. E. Haggie at Oxford, and during a motor run on one of these days paid an unannounced flying visit to Mrs. E. D. Lee, of Hartwell House, Aylesbury; we were fortunate in finding her at home to show us her aviaries and birds.

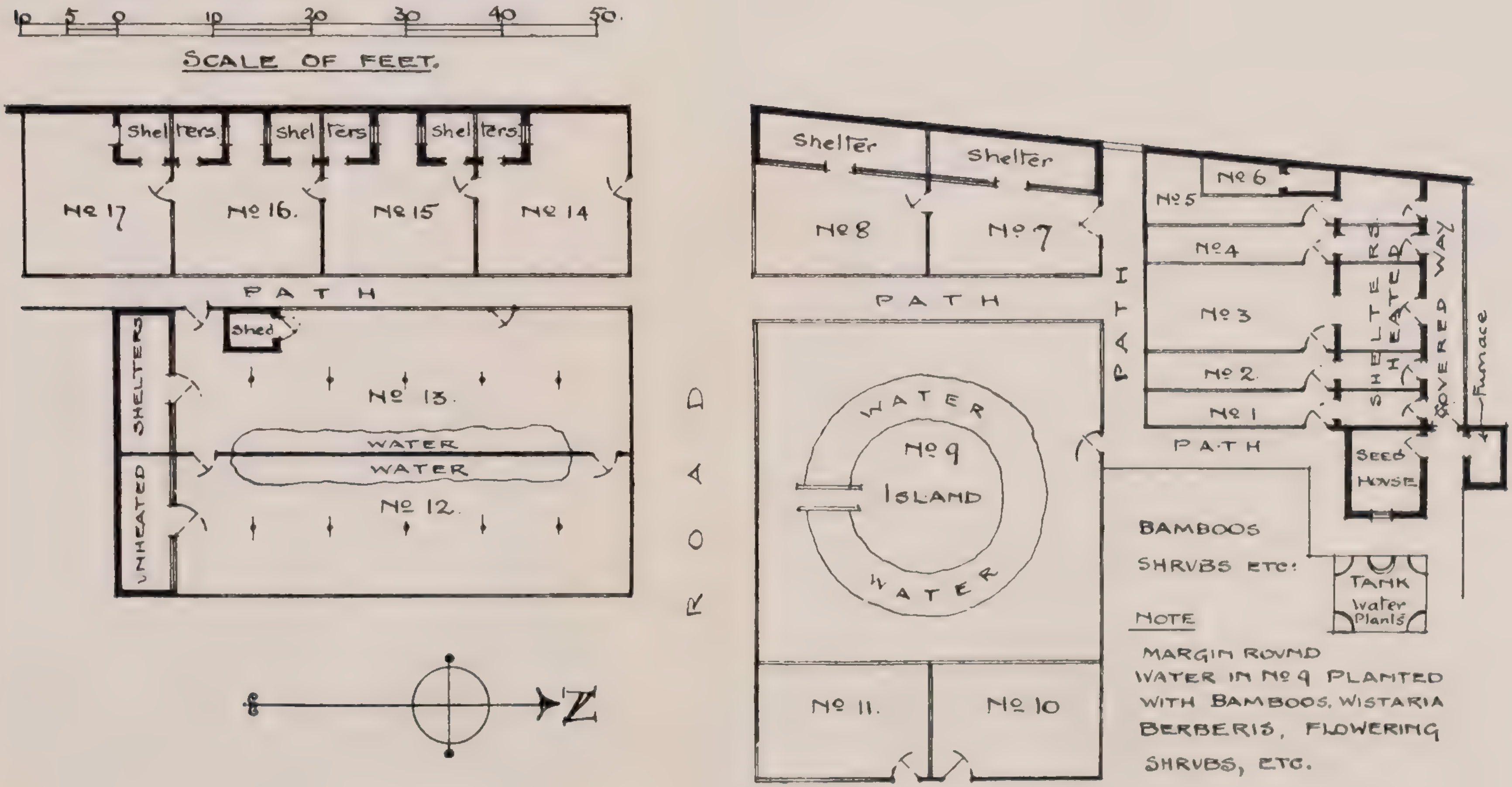
The aviaries were very picturesque, this being enhanced by being placed amid the sylvan beauty of the extensive and beautiful grounds surrounding the house. Our visit was all too short, either for taking notes or adequately observing the beautiful and varied collection of birds, and I am compelled to draw entirely upon memory in writing this description, aided by a list of the birds and a rough diagram of the ground areas of the respective aviaries, since kindly supplied by Mrs. Lee; from the latter, our member, Mr. E. F. M. Elms, has kindly drawn the ground plan, which illustrates these notes. The war and the difficulty of getting some information from Mrs. Lee owing to her being away from home, are responsible for the tardy appearance of this account of our visit.

The general effect of these enclosures, mostly naturally planted and turfed, with the many fine birds disporting therein was really very fine, and they certainly reflect great credit on their owner and designer, Mrs. Lee, and her interest in them and their occupants was very apparent.

This notice can be no more than the briefest of descriptions and a list of the birds the brief character of my call and the absence of time precludes more, and I must leave it to Mrs. Lee to furnish anecdotal episodes of the birds at a later date.

Series 1 to 6: This group of aviaries consists of a series of flights in front of some converted loose boxes, (brick built), the latter forming the shelters, which are heated during the winter months. The flights are constructed of iron and fine mesh wire-netting, and form a really fine series of lofty flights, and are partly grass and partly gravel, with a small pool

M^RS LEE'S AVIARIES.


10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50.
SCALE OF FEET.
Shelters
Shelters
Shelters
No 17
No 16.
No 15
No 14
PATH
Shed
SHELTERS
UNHEATED
No 13.
WATER
WATER
No 12.
ROAD
Z
Shelter
Shelter
No 8
No 7
No 6
No 5
No 4
No 3
No 2.
No 1
PATH
PATH
PATH
HEATED SHELTERS
COVERED WAY
Furnace
SEED HOUSE
WATER
No 9
ISLAND
WATER
No 11.
No 10
BAMBOOS
SHRUBS ETC:
TANK
Water Plants

NOTE

MARGIN ROUND WATER IN No 9 PLANTED WITH BAMBOOS, WISTARIA BERBERIS, FLOWERING SHRUBS, ETC.

formed of cement in each. The condition of the various birds bespoke their happy and contented occupancy. The ground plan makes further description superfluous. The various aviaries contained:

No. 1. Yellow-naped, Jendaya, and Half-moon Parrakeets, and Roseate Cockatoos.
No. 2. Small White Javan Cockatoo, hen Red-sided Eclectus Parrot, Green Conure, and Stanley Parrakeet.
No. 3. Blue and Yellow, Red and Blue, and Crimson Macaws.
No. 4. Flock of Weavers, Senegal Parrot, Pennant's Parrakeets, and Black-faced Lovebirds.
No. 5. Canaries; Pekin Robins: Zebra, Masked, and Green-winged Doves.
No. 6. No list.

The Macaws have laid, but have never attempted to incubate their eggs; but breeding has never been attempted in the above series, as there are too many in each division. The birds, however, do exceedingly well and have proved long-lived under the treatment given. The windows of the shelter are fitted with wire doors, so that the birds can be driven in and shut in whenever weather and other conditions make this desirable.

The remainder of the aviaries are unheated, the flights being made from chicken-hurdles, with wire-netting stretched over the top—the lower 18 inches of the hurdles is wood, the remainder wire-netting. Each enclosure is fitted with a suitable shelter, mostly constructed of bricks. All are turfed, and where the character of the occupants permits, naturally planted as well. A reference to the ground plan will make all clear, and it only remains for me to say that they appealed to me as practical, pleasing, and suitable in every way to house their respective occupants; that is, if the condition of the birds is to count for anything at all.

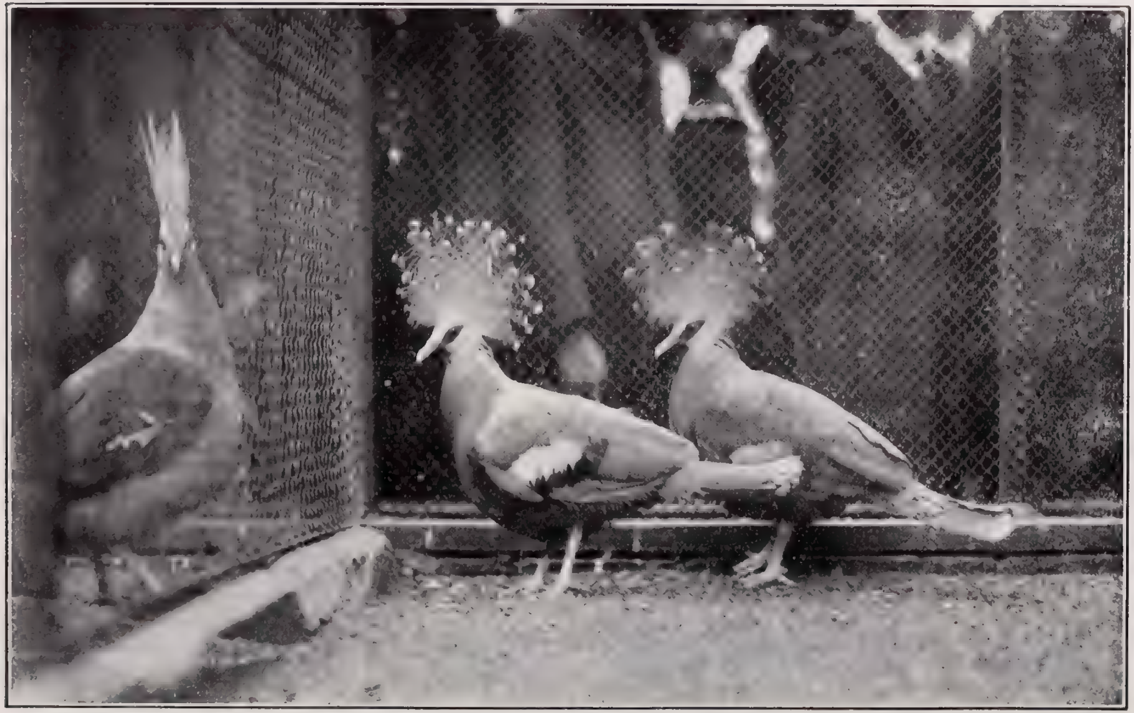
No. 7. Great Crested Pigeons (a very fine pair); Golden, Amherst, and hybrid Golden × Amherst Pheasants.
No. 8. Golden and hybrid Golden × Amherst Pheasants.

No. 9: The appearance of this enclosure is very picturesque, being known as the Duck Pond. It is 36 feet square, with a small island in the centre, surrounded with a broad stream of water; and, the remaining portion planted with Bamboos, Berberis, Camelias, Wistarias, Tree Paeonies, etc., the whole effect being charming. It contained the following ducks: Mandarin, Carolina, Pintail, Ruddy Sheld-drake and Formosan Teal.

No. 10. Unoccupied.
No. 11. Silver Pheasants.

No. 12 and 13: These two aviaries are of ample dimensions, though owing to their containing Parrakeets much plant life is not possible, but with the ground covered with grass and weeds, and the tastefully placed tree branches, combined with the gorgeous plumage of the birds, the whole effect

Great Crowned Pigeon: (*goura coronata*).



Victorian Crowned Pigeons (*Goura victoria*).

Photo by E. O. Photo.

was very fine. The dimensions of each flight is 48 x 18 feet, and each shelter is 18 x 6 feet. The contents of the respective enclosures are:

No. 12. Rosella Parrakeets; Dommican (Pope), and Virginian Cardinals; Bronze-necked, Crested, and White Java Doves; Cuban Quails and Cockateels.
No. 13. Ring-necked, Rosella, and Pennant's Parrakeets; Bronze-winged, Crested, and Ring Doves; Bleeding-heart Pigeons, and Californian Quails.

The remaining aviaries are all very practical enclosures, mostly arranged as Pheasantries, though other species of birds have a place therein. In the writer's opinion the Impeyan Pheasants were the glory of this series; though the stately Elliot's and Swinhoe's Pheasants in neighbouring enclosures held one entranced with their brilliant and stately elegance.

No. 14. Impeyan Pheasants, Rosella Parrakeets, and a flock of Budgerigars.
No. 15. Elliott's Pheasants.
No. 16. Swinhoe's Pheasants.
No. 17. Reeve's Pheasants.

The above account is most inadequate, but it indicates the species kept together, the method of housing, etc. I must add in conclusion that the general condition of the whole series, both as to health and plumage, was certainly at high-water mark.

Breeding has not been the main object so far, but rather the suitable housing of a varied and beautiful collection, much too mixed to expect many breeding results; but Mrs. Lee's object has certainly been achieved. She is now contemplating a series of smaller aviaries for single, or at most, two pairs, as breeding aviaries.

The paths at intervals have climbing roses trained over them, adding materially to the generally picturesque effect.

(*To be continued*).

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Nesting of Jardine's Pigmy Owl.

(Glaucidium jardinii).

BY MISS ETHEL F. CHAWNER.

My pair of these tiny Owls went to nest the 12th of last April in a nesting box, hung up in a dark corner of their house. The hen began incubating as soon as she had laid the first egg, but the clutch consisted of three. They were of the usual type, round, white, and rather large. The hen sat very closely, attended by her mate, who guarded her with great devotion, flying fiercely at intruders, and doing his utmost to drive them away. On May 8th the first egg shells were thrown out and a young bird could be heard twittering. Both parents remained in the nest-box, the cock only leaving to carry up food. Another nestling hatched on the 9th, and the third on the 11th.

When first hatched they are tiny creatures, covered with snowy white down, and, unlike their parents, are very vociferous. The first few days of their lives they are continually brooded by their mother, but later could plainly be seen sitting beside her in the box. How they retained their whiteness is a puzzle, for all food lies about on the floor of their nursery until consumed and they squat among it. Mice, sparrows, and kittens, were readily accepted by the old birds as suitable food for the babies but at first they refused young chickens and even a young thrush, which I supposed would be just the thing.

Two young were fully reared and are now (August) nearly as large as their parents. The third disappeared when a few days old. When they left the nest they were fully feathered and paler editions of the old birds, the white greyer and the brown less rufous. They were shy and hid in the recesses of the nesting-box, but are gradually gaining confidence. Unlike their parents they still twitter over their food, though they feed themselves entirely and are to all intents and purposes adult.

It is doubtful if these Owls have ever before been bred in confinement, certainly it is for the first time in the United Kingdom.

The colouration of the parent birds is brighter, rufous-brown on the back and white streaked with chestnut in front. These midgets are my special weakness and are fascinating creatures.

◆

Birds of the Jhelum District and an Ornithological Diary from the Punjab.

BY H. WHISTLER, I.P., M.B.O.U.

(Continued from page 236).

CORRIGENDA.

Page 378 (Vol. V.), line 7, for *Parrots* read *Pastors.*

Page 400 (Vol. V.), line 8, from bottom of page, for *full grown Grey Partridges* read *full grown young Grey Partridges.*

Page 401 (Vol. V.), line 33, for *picta* read *picata.*

◆

December 1st.—Saw what was undoubtedly a specimen of Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*) by my bungalow in the early morning; it was again in the same place on 17th of the month, and what were probably two more were noted near Otu on the 27th. But the species does not appear to be common in this district.

A Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla borealis*), with an immature Wagtail of the same type were rather unexpected birds for this time of the year.

December 2nd.—Visited Rajpurajheel where there were a number of Coots (*Fulica atra*) which were however not there when I went again at the end of the month. Black-winged Kite (*Elanus cæruleus*) seen.

December 3rd.—The Short-billed Minivet (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*) seen for the first time this winter, tho' its cheery note was heard some days ago.

December 4th.—A small flight of Common Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) noted. Three Saker Falcons (*Falco cherrug*) were met with on some sand dunes but attempts to catch two of them were unsuccessful, as although both came to the decoy Hawk, both broke away from the bullock-hair nooses. Two Short-eared Owls (*Asio accipitrinus*) flushed on the same ground, and a Kestrel seen.

December 5th.—Two Long-legged Buzzards (*Buteo ferox*), and two Kestrels seen.

December 6th.—An early morning expedition after Geese to a small river about four miles from Sirsa was spoilt by a very thick mist, as we knew not the ground. Some Geese were soon found but they melted into the fog, and ignorance of the locality prevented us from meeting them again.

December 10th.—A flight of Common Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) seen several times in the morning, and a couple of birds seen twice in the evening.

Two Pale-brown Shrikes (*Lanius isabellinus*).

December 11th.—A flock of Eastern Stock Doves, one or two Swallows, two Pale-brown Shrikes, and a Kestrel noted.

December 12th.—Met a man carrying a live Barn Owl (*Strix flammea*) in each hand; he was hawking them about endeavouring to find a purchaser. They were probably caught in some well, for the species is not uncommon in these parts, and on several occasions my Falconer has brought me one when he returned from a nocturnal Pigeon-catching expedition. On one occasion he descended into a well and found himself face to face with a Cobra in the wall—but that's another story.

December 13th.—Found a party of Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus candidus*) feeding in a village pond, and three Cream-coloured Coursers (*Cursorius gallicus*) feeding on waste sandy ground by another village.

A Wryneck seen. Also a very big flock of Rose-coloured Pastors (*Pastor roseus*) which are at present scarce in these parts though numerous enough as close as Hissar.

(*To be continued*).

◆

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: We think it will be of general interest to once more indicate what measure of success has attended our members' efforts to breed the feathered occupants of their aviaries, of course excluding those already recorded in the form of articles or letters in the Correspondence section of the Club Journal.

Indian White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosa*): In Lieut. Bainbridge's aviaries, after nesting and hatching out, but failing to rear on at least two occasions this season, one young bird is now on the wing and quite independent of its parents. Here also fifteen Zebra Finches, two Diamond Sparrows, and quite a flock of Red-headed Finches (*Amadina erythrocephala*) have been fully reared.

BLUE TANAGERS (*Tanagra episcopus*): In June issue of "B.N." we recorded Mrs. Speaker's success with this species. The same pair of birds have again nested and hatched out three young, one only of which was fully reared. On August 10th there was a fledgeling in the nest, five days old, as the result of their third attempt.

YELLOW-WINGED SUGAR-BIRD (*Coereba cyanea*): In Miss Chawner's aviary a pair of this lovely species built a nest and deposited therein a clutch of eggs, but refused to incubate. Yellow-rumped Serins also nested, but the eggs were infertile. Pekin Robins hatched out but failed to rear. Indigo Buntings have built a nest, but have not yet got as far as eggs. Eagle-Owls have one young bird fully reared, and a number of young Zebra Finches are on the wing.

CRESTED BLACK BUNTINGS (*Melophus melanicterus*): This species has never, we think, attempted to nest in captivity before. In Mr. de Q. Quincey's aviary a pair has nested twice this season. On the first occasion a clutch of four eggs was laid and three young birds were duly hatched out, which were killed by Fruitsuckers when ten days old. On the second occasion one young bird was hatched from a clutch of two eggs, but it died when ten days old. The eggs are rather dark, heavily marked, and not pointed at the narrow end.

RUFOUS-BELLIED NILTAVAS (*Niltava sundara*): These have nested without success in Mr. de Q. Quincey's aviaries. In 1914 they also nested, and laid at least one egg. A beautiful robin-like nest was constructed in a straw-hat, lined with fine black roots. The egg was very similar to that of the Red-breast, less blotched, but with more and darker spots at the large end, almost clear at the small. Unfortunately the hen was disturbed, as no one knew they were nesting, and she deserted. Violet-eared Waxbills are now nesting.

CHINESE GREENFINCHES (*Ligurinus sinica*): Young of this species have been successfully reared in Mr. Shore Baily's aviaries; also Taha Weavers. Details will appear later. Young of Rosella, and hybrid Rosella Parrakeets, also hybrid Silverbill × Bengalese are on the wing. Notice of other successes in these aviaries has already appeared.

INDIGO × NONPARIEL BUNTING HYBRIDS: In the aviary of Mr. B. C. Thomasset two young hybrids have been reared. This cross has not previously been reared in the British Isles, and if our member will send us a detailed account of his success, it will qualify for a medal.

STANLEY AND MANY-COLOUR PARRAKEETS: Mr. J. Smith has again had good results from these two species; at the end of July there were four young Stanleys and three Many-colours on the wing. All strong and robust birds.

WHITE-WINGED WHYDAH (*Urobrachya albonotata*): Two young of this species have been reared in the aviary of Mr. W. E. Teschemaker for the first time in the British Isles.

LINNET × CUTTHROAT HYBRID, ETC.: In the aviary of Mr. C. E. Croker this cross was successfully reared last year; unfortunately no details were forthcoming, but the plumage of the hybrid leaves no doubt as to its parentage. In its beak, and the deep buff mottling of the underparts it resembles the Cutthroat, but the back wings and tail, as to colour and markings, are similar to the Linnet. In size and contour it about equally favours both parents. In these aviaries a young Chaffinch has again been reared, but no details are known; the nest it came from is not yet discovered; the same applies to a brood of Greenfinches. A pair each of Zebra Finches and Cutthroats have just brought off their third broods for this season. Quaker Parrakeets are feeding young. On the occasion of a recent visit a pair of Magpies were busily incubating a clutch of eggs, and were very savage when their nest was approached.

FIREFINCHES, ETC.: In the aviaries of Mr. G. E. Haggie the following young birds are on the wing: Firefinches (3), Cordon Bleus (2), Budgerigars (18). Peach-faced Lovebirds are incubating. Green Avadavats have built a nest but so far have not laid. A Lavender Finch and Orange-cheek Waxbill nested and duly hatched out two young, which they threw out of the nest. They are now incubating another clutch of eggs.

GUINEA-FOWL × FOWL: Our new member, Mrs. A. Castle-Gant, has a young bird of this cross doing well. The parents are a White Guinea-fowl and a Campine hen, and the cross in plumage somewhat resembles a Plymouth Rock. We hope to publish a photo and further details later.

MALABAR MYNAHS, ETC: In the aviaries of Mr. W. T. Page two young of this species are fully reared. Black Tanagers, Hooded Siskins, Grey-winged Ouzels, and some of the "Freely Imported Species" have also successfully reared young. Scaley-crowned Finches, Pekin Robins, Pileated Song-Sparrows have all unsuccessfully attempted to reproduce their kind—the recent heavy thunder-rains have been responsible for several failures—all are now nesting again. The young Napoleon Weaver reared here in August 1914 came into full nuptial plumage in mid-July.

L.M. TRELOAR CRIPPLES' HOSPITAL AND COLLEGE AVIARIES: During a recent visit we noticed these aviaries and their occupants were in splendid condition; beautiful and picturesque are not extravagant terms. We noticed a Yellow Bunting's nest in the grass at the foot of a privet hedge, containing two callow young, which unfortunately were not fully reared. Four young Cockateels were on the wing but still being fed by their parents. Young Budgerigars were very numerous, and Black-faced Lovebirds were being fed in the nest. Numerous other Finches were nesting. A report dated August 4th states that four Spice Finches, two Silverbills, and three Cutthroats were on the wing. The Trustees would greatly appreciate the gift of a hen B.H. Gouldian Finch, also any other species of Passerine birds or of the Parrot tribe.

Owing to lack of space other general notes must be held over till a future issue.

◆

Correspondence.

FECUNDITY OF CALIFORNIAN QUAIL.

Sir.—I have in an out-door aviary a pair of Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californica*). In 1914 fifteen eggs were laid, duly incubated, all hatched out and thirteen were fully reared. This year fifty-five eggs have been laid, but the hen will not incubate. They are the same pair. I shall be obliged if you will tell me if this number is not an unusually large one? (Mrs.) H. SEBAG-MONTEFIORE.

East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate,
17-viii.-'15.

[This number is not unusual.—In 1912 a pair of this species in my aviary laid four clutches of 21, 23, 24, and 21, but only incubated the second, of which seventeen hatched out, sixteen being fully reared. All lived in the aviary till they reached adult plumage when they were disposed of.—Ed.].

TAME BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS.

Sir.—It may interest some members to hear that I have a pair of this species, hand-reared birds, in a cage (size 3ft. x 1ft) in the sitting-room. They have nested and hatched out three young ones, which they are frightfully pleased with, and rearing well. They are absolutely tame and come out of their cage, sitting on people's shoulders and hands. Their chief delight is to come on the tea table and try every article of food on the table. Is it not rather unusual for them to breed in a living-room? Their first lot of eggs were clear, but they hatched out an egg from the aviary Lovebirds and successfully reared the young one.

Bretton West, Wakefield. MRS. CARTWRIGHT.
19-viii.-'15.

◆

Late News.

A UNIQUE CONSIGNMENT OF HUMMING-BIRDS: We have just heard (August 29th) from one of our members in France that he has received ten new humming-birds in good condition. There has been no time to identify them yet, but they have been obtained with great pains from the Silla—the heights surrounding Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. Although the name of the Aviculturist must be withheld, we are allowed to say it is the same who succeeded in March, 1913 in establishing for the first time live Colibris in Europe by taking a special journey to the French West Indian islands. Several of these are still in existence and in excellent health, and, it is to be hoped this new lot will do equally well. More details of this event will be published in next month's number; but in view of the great difficulties created by the state of war, this must be looked upon as something more than an ordinary new importation.

LATER: On August 31st we learn that instead of ten there are about thirty Humming Birds, consisting of eight species, six only of which have as yet been identified. Most of the birds look like living, many being actually perfect in feather and health. There are adults and young birds still in nestling plumage, and most of the species are represented by males and females, which make the collection still more interesting. The species identified are as follows:

Lampornis violicollis, ♂ and ♀.
Chrysolampis elatus, ♂ and ♀.
Amazilia sophiae, ♂ and ♀.
Agyrtia milleri, ♂ and ♀.
Agyrtia fimbriata.
Leucippus fallax, ♂ and ♀.

Most of the above are minute species, smaller than my Bellona—"just about the size of large blue-bottle flies." There are about ten Ruby Topaz, three or four of which are in "baby-plumage" yet, simply jewels! Our member promises to report progress later.

NESTING OF BLACK-TAILED HAWFINCHES: Miss A. B. Smyth reports that her pair of *Eophona melanura* have hatched out three young, two of which have died, but that the third at time of writing (September 4th) was very promising, It is ten days' old and the parents are feeding well. Miss Smyth has also had a clutch of eggs from her Senegal Parrots, which unfortunately were broken—fuller details in our next.

RED-COLLARED LORIKEETS: In Miss Peddie-Waddell's birdroom, in a compartment three feet square by six feet high, a pair of *Trichoglossus rubritorques* have successfully reared one young bird—full details next month.

BIRDS OF PARADISE: On September 1st there were placed on deposit at the London Zoo a number of the lovely Wilson's Bird of Paradise (*Schlegelia wilsoni*), which had been collected and brought over by Mr. Pratt. All are in good condition and should do well.

*MELBA FINCH: Mr. H. Willford has had a good season and has had one young bird of this species fully reared.

*BROWN-EARED CONURE (*C. ocularis*): Mr. W. Shore Baily has young of this species on the wing.

*First time in captivity.

ERRATA.

The title to illustration on page 214 *should* read: Nest and eggs of Bearded-Tit.

Under LATE NEWS on page 236, "Senegal Parrot (*L. senegal*)" should read: Senegal Parrot (*P. senegalus*).

Dr Lovell-Keays informs us that his White-eyes were unfortunately wrongly identified and that they are *Zosterops virens* not *Z. viridis*. Thus *Zosterops viridis* on pages 143, 162, and 197 of current volume, *should read Zosterops virens* in each instance.

◆

"Avicultural Magazine" and "Bird Notes."

Mr. H. D. Astley, the Editor of our contemporary, publishing an article in their current issue, in which he reviews the position of the "Avicultural Magazine" and its objects, and also deals similarly with the inception of "Foreign Bird Notes" (now "Bird Notes"), and seems to imply that the present character of "Bird Notes" is not consistent with some *supposed* pledge or undertaking given fourteen years ago, when the Foreign Bird Club was started.

I, myself, am not the one to reply to that part of the matter (most probably Mr. Fillmer, the founder of the Society will do so), but really any undertaking such as hinted at is absurd, for two more societies might be launched at once, having similar objects and aims, and neither the Avicultural Society, nor the Foreign Bird Club could complain. I have searched back, and there is nothing in the constitution of the F.B.C. to limit the scope of the club in any direction whatever (save to the interests of birdkeepers). Moreover, as "B.N." is now nearing the completion of its fourteenth volume, it is hopelessly out of date to enter a protest. The facts are these:—

The Foreign Bird Exhibitors' League was started in 1898 and was intended to be a Society of Exhibitors only.

In 1901 it changed its name and became THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB, its objects being the same as they are to-day, viz.: Mutual aid and encouragement in the keeping and breeding of birds, and to improve the conditions of the exhibiting of Foreign Birds. To secure this "Foreign Bird Notes," the Club Journal, was commenced with very small beginnings.

In 1903 another alteration took place, the scope of the Club was extended to include British species, and the name of the Club Journal was altered to "Bird Notes."

The standing of the Club is practically the same to-day, and its rapid progress has certainly justified its existence.

The present Editor did not join the Club till 1905, but maintains that from its inception to the present, the character of the Club Journal has been mainly avicultural, it must naturally be as the organ of a Society of Bird-keepers, though the leading Foreign Bird Shows have been fully reported in its pages.

During the eight years the writer has been Editor he has simply perpetuated what already existed. Certainly we have grown, and perhaps owing to his being purely an aviculturist, this feature in the Magazine has been emphasised. The growth of the Society and the popularity of its Journal speak for themselves, and no argument is needed to justify its existence.

The object of the F.B.C. has never been to compete with or win members from any other society; on the contrary, many members of the F.B.C. have afterwards become members of the A.S., and in like manner members of the A.S. have asked to be nominated as members of F.B.C. We have broken new ground and gathered in the major portion of our membership from hitherto unworked ground, in fact, sought them out, largely made our public, as it were—the result being, that in spite of losses from the war, we have a membership of about 400, and a popular high class Journal.

Mr. Fillmer will probably make a rejoinder to the implied charge of breach of faith or inconsistency—though this hardly merits a reply, as the Club Journal has been commented upon, without protest, in the pages of the "Avicultural Magazine" at various times, and we very much doubt the wisdom of reviving old animosities, which we hoped had died a natural death. To do so at this juncture is, we repeat, hopelessly out of date.

The above brief review of the policy, etc., of the F.B.C., since the writer has known it, is for the benefit of the newer members of F.B.C. To those of some years' standing it is superfluous.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Editor.*

MR. FILLMER'S REJOINDER.

The September issue of the "Avicultural Magazine" contains a very strange article by the Editor, Mr. Astley, the purpose of which, it is not easy to understand. It is entitled "Has the object of the 'Avicultural Magazine' been misinterpreted?" and it contains rather lengthy quotations from some notes of mine in an early number of "Bird Notes." Reading between the lines, I gather that the star of "Bird Notes" is waxing and that of the "Avicultural Magazine" waning, and this is disconcerting the Editor of the latter to such an extent that he thinks it worth while, in a critical period of the Great War, to rake up the ashes of a personal controversy fourteen years old.

I have no intention of following his example. If it gratifies Mr. Astley to say that the Avicultural Society has never claimed to be a scientific society I shall not trouble to contradict him—but I fancy a good many of those who were leading members at the time I was associated with the Avicultural Society would by no means endorse his statement. I do, however, venture to suggest that it is rather late in the day to complain of what I wrote in the first number of "Bird Notes," just fourteen years ago. If what I said was misleading, which I do not admit, it surely should, and would, have been contradicted at the time.

I should like, also, to point out that I resigned the Editorship of "Bird Notes" more than ten years ago, and have for many years ceased to have any share whatever in the control of its policy. It is obvious that statements made by me in 1901, as to the objects and scope of the Magazine, cannot in any way bind the present Editor and those associated with him in the production of "Bird Notes" in 1915.

HORATIO R. FILLMER.

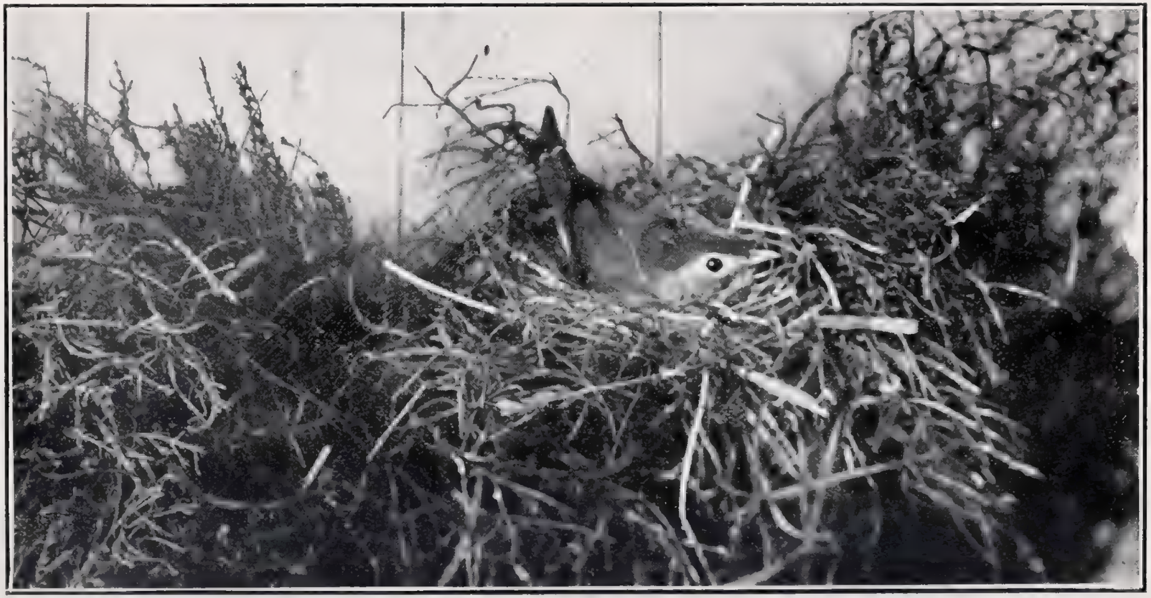

Photo by G. E. Low

Cock Pekin Robin on Nest.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Notes On The Pekin Robin.

By G. E. Low.

The photo of Pekin Robin, on nest, to which I have been asked to append this note, was taken, when, being inexperienced and sanguine, I had some hopes of success. In an evil moment, I sent the print with some others to our Editor, and I am now asked to record a failure which I would fain have forgotten as soon as possible.

My Pekin Robins commenced to build about two months ago, and finding the occupation an agreeable one—their existence being somewhat dull and colourless—they usually pulled down each day most of the preceding day's work.

By this means they managed to spin out the housebuilding over a period of about a month, the top story being completed and the first egg laid on about the 19th of June. I should mention the cock bird did nearly all the building, the hen contenting herself with criticism and very possibly intimating, from time to time, her determination not to live in such a shanty, with the result that her sorely tried husband was obliged to do the work over again.

Both the birds did their fair share of the incubating and on or about the second of July, two chicks were hatched. Before the third chick emerged, however, the first two were thrown out, after having apparently been carefully fed, at frequent intervals.

No interest was taken in the third egg, where the young bird was just breaking the shell, and the parents, I regret to say, adopted a demeanour of complete indifference to the whole tragedy, as though they wished to convey that housebuilding and family rearing were a pleasing occupation, only in so far as they didn't bore one, and that when that stage was reached, it was much better to chuck the whole thing.

I am told that the failure was probably due to improper food. Small mealworms, cockroaches, and scalded ants' eggs were what I supplied. Had I added live ants' eggs to the menu possibly I might have had better success.

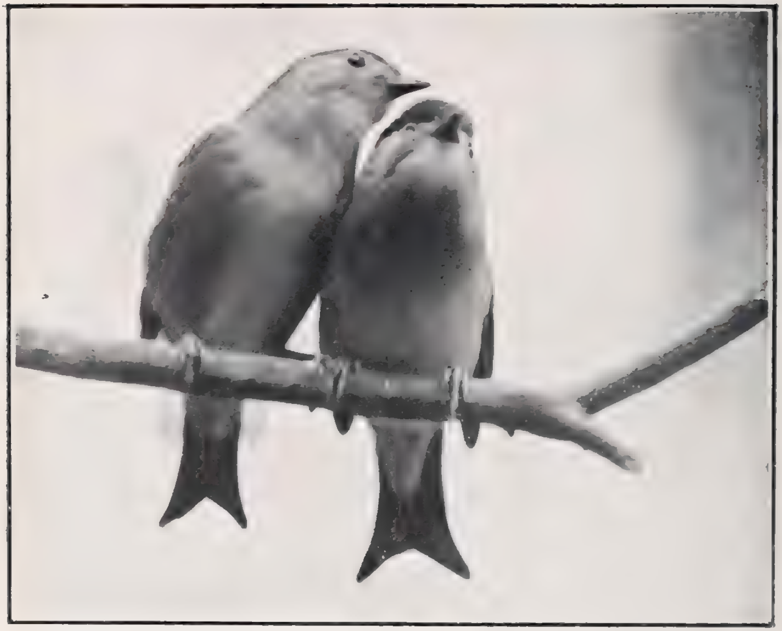
In future, when I am short of live food, I propose to make use of the sweep nét commonly used by entomologists. This is similar to an ordinary butterfly net, with a shallower bag made of very course material. The top should be leather bound and passed round a strong heavy iron ring about 18in. in diameter, which is firmly fixed to a strong handle. A few vigorous sweeps with this weapon amongst the herbage of any field or ditch will produce an abundance of insects and caterpillars of all kinds, which can be boxed for use in the aviary. This method would be useful for the owners of small aviaries, where insect life is unlikely to be abundant—possibly it is well known, but I have not seen it suggested.

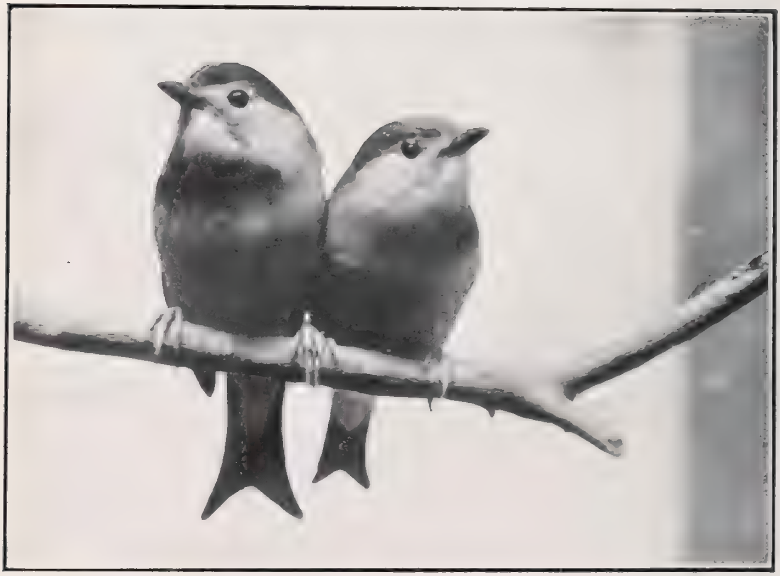
To return to the unnatural parents. They very soon recommenced nest-building operations in a small yew tree in outer aviary. One egg was laid which I noticed has since disappeared and matters are now at a standstill.

Notwithstanding their misdemeanours, one can't help being greatly attracted by these little pickles. Always full of life and activity—their cheery little notes constantly maintaining communication—their continuous flitting to and fro, their confiding disposition, their capacity for minding their own business and leaving other birds alone, not to mention the powers of the cock as a songster, all combine to place them amongst the most desirable of our foreign birds.

My hen is a lady with some powers of observation. She discovered some time ago that the Orange-headed Ground Thrush possessed a longer and stronger bill than her own and that it paid well to remain in his vicinity when he was rooting up the soil for worms and other attractions. He is either too much of a sportsman or too big a fool to resent this and as a consequence suffers to some extent.

I have, on the other hand, a little cock Cuban Finch who has developed a great affection for the hen Pekin Robin, principally, I think, because she combs his hair for him at times. It is ludicrous to see this little morsel sitting beside





Photos by G E Low

Pekin Robins—Happily Mated.

her on the perch and extending his neck in all sorts of convenient attitudes for this operation. His wife, I am sorry to say takes no interest whatever in him, although he long since completed a beautiful house for her. Possibly the toleration of both the Pekins is due to pity for his forlorn condition

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

I am pleased to say, that this little yarn has a happier ending than that so interestingly told by Mr. Low, and with his notes preceding this, I shall confine myself to the nesting episode.

For some twenty-five years or more this charming and vivacious species has been a frequent occupant of my aviaries, yet this season is the first time they have seriously attempted to nest with me. True, this is the first year they have had a place in my present aviary, and this event may be taken as an argument in favour of the naturally planted garden aviary, as in previous times when I have kept the species, my accommodation has been cut up into small enclosures, and the number and variety of their inmates has made *natural cover* impossible, and the many pairs I have had at one time or another showed their disapproval of such conditions by refusing to make even an attempt at nesting, though they lived long and apparently happy lives, with a strong partiality of eggs for breakfast other birds' eggs, for so far as I know they never laid an egg till this season.

My present pair were presented to me by our member Captain J. S. Reeve, who, owing to being called to the colours, has closed his aviaries till he is free from military duty. They came to me in late April, and by the middle of May their first nest was built and they were busy incubating a clutch of eggs. The nest was in the middle of a thick privet bush, and was a beautiful construction. Four nests have been built in all, and all of them of the same type as that in the illustration, viz.: a suspended cradle. With this nest all went well for a week, then there was a scrimmage, but I can give no details, the nest got damaged and the eggs broken, while for that day and the next the Pekins made the aviary a melancholy place owing to their plaintive, distressful calls. Then they made up their minds that it was no use "crying over spilt milk" and repaired the nest and deposited another clutch of eggs therein, but when the eggs were about due to hatch, one of the suspending ropes gave way and again the eggs were smashed, and again the plaintive cries of the disappointed birds were quite distressing; but this time they more quickly recovered and the following day they were again building.

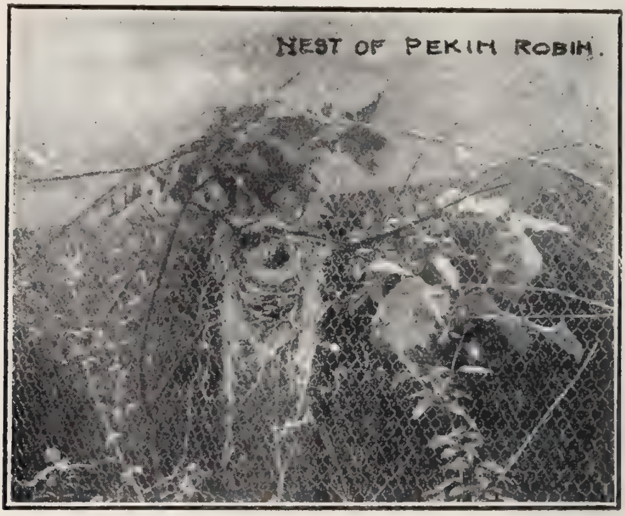


Photo by F. O. Page.

Compare with Plate opposite page 267.

This time their choice fell on quite a different part of the aviary (*vide* illustration), instead of thick privet bush, quite an open straggling branch, overshadowed by a large clump of hazel, was chosen and in due course incubation began and one chick was duly hatched out, and the young bird lived for six days apparently doing well; but on the morning of the seventh day when I entered the aviary the distressful cries of the parents prepared me for the worst. Alas! when I looked the nest was empty and there on the ground beneath was the little body cold and stiff. I am of the opinion that it had either been brought out adhering to the plumage of one of its parents, or had fallen out owing to the swaying of the nest during the high wind which had prevailed during the night—so ended attempt number three. This young bird I preserved in spirit.

I then thought that they had given things up as a bad job, for I had not seen them carrying nesting material about, but on July 23rd, our member, Mr. Bright, was paying me a visit, and while going through the aviary, he suddenly said "What nest is that ?" and there hanging below a swaying elder twig was another Pekin cradle containing eggs—in due course two chicks were hatched out, and though the weather was very unsettled, heavy thunder-showers being prevalent, all went well for nine days and the young were all but fledged and everything promised well. On this ninth day Capt. Reeve called to see the young birds, he had to wait for another heavy shower to pass before entering the aviary. He was much interested in the young birds, but thought the nest very fragile. In the late evening and partly through the night gales of wind and rain prevailed, and it was with some anxiety that I made my early morning visit to the aviary. Again the distressful cries of the Pekins prepared me for disaster—as soon as I was inside I saw the worst, the rain had saturated the nest, and caused one of the grass suspending ropes to give, thus letting out the young. I could only find one of them and this is now in spirit along with the young one of the third attempt. Third week in August, leaves no chance of success this season, was my comment, but I was more sorry for the parents than myself, their distress was so very real.

However, they belonged to the "try-again" brigade and within three days another nest was completed and the first egg laid; incubation occupied just thirteen days, and then on venturing to look in the nest I saw three gaping mouths and once more hope reigned supreme. On September 10th, Captain Reeve again called and saw the young, then just seven days old, and we both agreed that success seemed very probable. On September 15th, there was a perfect clamour in the aviary and I really feared some pirate bird was appropriating the young Pekins, but on entering the aviary my fears were soon dispelled, for the Pekins were only shouting "Hurrah, brought it off at last" There, hopping amid the branches, were two strong young Pekins, quite unable to fly, but very active amid the twigy branches of the privet hedge-row. Since then all has gone well, and though not yet independent promise soon to be so. I noted the following, to me, very interesting points:—

Four nests were constructed during the season and all of them, together with two others I saw in the summer aviaries at the London Zöo, were all facsimiles of the one illustrating these notes.

The parent birds were very secretive, both in leaving and returning to the nest, and equally so when feeding the young after they had left the nest. If watched they often make a circuit of the aviary and enter the foliage a long way from where their cries told you the young were invariably they crept through the thickest cover the aviary provided to reach the nest or young

The incubation period is, I think, twelve days—I was only able to check this three times and the result was 12, 12 and 13 days, respectively, but, as there were three eggs in the last clutch and I noted the date when there were but two, also, as one young bird appeared a day later than the first two, we may fairly accurately assume the period to be twelve days.

Both parents shared in the tasks of nest construction, incubation, and feeding the young, though the hen bird is the most assiduous in the latter duty.

So far as I was able to observe the young were fed entirely on insects while in the nest, the parent birds first killing the insect and then carrying them in their bills to their young (very few mealworms were given owing to their scarcity, but wasp's grubs, and gentles were freely supplied).

The young left the nest on the twelfth day.

The callow young appear almost black, suffused with pink; fairly well covered with long black down; the interior of the mouth is very brilliant, first orange then deep pink, and looks very striking and brilliant when they are gaping for food.

The nestling plumage of the young when they left the nest was grey, lighter on the under parts; the crown of the head tinged with olive green, also the the upper back, but less noticeably so; there are light buffish patches above and below the eye and on the throat; the flights are blackish, with very narrow red outer margins and tipped with buff; tail feathers barely indicated when they left the nest; the abdomen is buff; the bill is dark horn-colour; with each mandible tipped and edged with yellowish horn; legs pale brownish flesh-colour.

One could easily yarn on *ad infinitum* about such an interesting species, but space in our Journal is too precious to permit of such indulgence, therefore I will only add that the Pekins have access to milk-sop, fruit, insectile mixture, seeds of all kinds and live insects, and they indulge in all at various times.

I will close with the remark that the Pekins' success has given me more pleasure than any other event in the aviary this season.

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Experiences of Foreign Finches and Softbills at Liberty.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

My experiences with various species of foreign passerine birds at liberty can scarcely be described as fortunate. Yet many nested successfully and reared their young, and, I sometimes think that if my experiments were to be repeated in a place not deficient in winter cover, nor infested with a race of Owls as keen, if not keener, after feather than they are after fur, a gratifying result might be obtained.

For the benefit of anyone who may like to try the rash venture, I therefore, write this "cautionary tale" which may enable him, at any rate, to avoid wasting time and money on species of wandering habits or unusual pugnacity. I will begin with the Finches, and their allies, for Softbills, *as a class*, are pretty hopeless, seeing that in summer there there is no artificial food you can offer them as an inducement to stay, half so attractive as the live insects they find everywhere in abundance.

Virginian Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) stay well if released in rather poor condition (not *too* poor or they will die after the first fall of heavy rain). The plan I tried of releasing pairs in breeding condition was a failure, but a hen, let out to join a cock who had passed the winter at liberty, nested in a juniper bush and hatched three young, which the accursed Jackdaws ate when about half-grown! Both old Cardinals were taken by Owls some weeks later, and a similar fate overtook so many others that I tried, that I gave them up as hopeless.

Red-crested Cardinals (*Paroaria cucullata*) stayed well when first released, but the following spring the two strongest pairs took complete possession of the garden (a very big one) and drove out all the rest. They reared many young ones but drove them away as soon as they were able to fend for themselves, so when they died some years later there were no others to take their place. Their nests were flimsy structures placed in the fork of a large deciduous tree. Three eggs usually formed the clutch, and three broods were reared during the season.

DOMINICAN CARDINALS (*Paroaria larvata*) were hardier than Red-crests, less quarrelsome, and might, I believe, have been a success if the Red-crests had left them in peace, but they were always bullying and driving them away. Their nests, built in rather low bushes, were composed of very fine twigs, and so badly constructed that the eggs could often be seen from below. A few young were reared, also some Dominican × Red-crested hybrids.

YELLOW-BILLED CARDINALS (*Paroaria capitata*) were not hardy and unable to stand the winter out of doors.

SAFFRON FINCHES (*Sycalis flaveola*) stayed well for some weeks and then left in large numbers. A few remained and bred in old Martins' nests, being often, however, disturbed by Sparrows. They maintained themselves for a few years and then died off quickly from septic fever.

NONPAREIL BUNTINGS (*Cyanospiza ciris*) proved delicate and did not establish themselves.

PARROT FINCHES (*Erythrura psittacea*) stayed for some weeks, but failed to breed and ultimately vanished.

GOULDIAN FINCHES (*Poephila gouldian*). I tried several times with this species but had no luck whatever. They are not good stayers and of those which did stay, many died of liver disease. A few got into fine condition, but they never attempted to nest and none survived the winter. One of the last I had was, apparently, a fine Black-headed cock with the usual deep purple bib. I sent him away and a few days later I heard that "he" had laid an egg, much to his owner's surprise!

DIAMOND SPARROWS (*Steganopleura güttata*) were not good stayers, either, although a brood once left the nest in February, and eggs were laid on several occasions.

CRIMSON FINCHES (*Neochmia phaeton*) seemed disposed to stay well, but as I only turned out two or three I did not really give them a fair trial.

STAR (RUFICAUDA) FINCHES (*Bathilda ruficauda*) stayed very well and nested freely, choosing low thick shrubs and young trees as nesting sites. A number of young were reared, but in the autumn the birds began to disappear, and, to save a good breeding stock for the coming year I caught up all that remained. This proved a mistake as they did very badly in confinement, and so few were left that I did not keep them through the winter.

LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCHES (*Poephila acuticauda*) stayed fairly well and bred on several occasions, but the mortality among them when newly imported was always very high. Some lived for nearly three years at liberty.

PARSON FINCHES (*Poephila cincta*) also did pretty well and maintained themselves for a considerable time, but as with the Long-tailed Grassfinches, it was difficult to get really healthy birds to start with.

ZEBRA FINCHES (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) maintained themselves for a few years and bred freely. They were also good stayers when first released. One of the original pairs had evidently contracted the vice of feather-plucking badly while on the journey. In an aviary they would probably have picked their young all over, but the natural conditions under which they lived caused them to modify their evil propensities, so that their children always left the nest with bald heads, and bare necks, but were otherwise well feathered!

ORANGE WEAVERS (*Pyromelana franciscana*) do better than any other Finches I have tried at liberty, and the cocks when in colour are a lovely sight. They breed freely, building their flimsy grass-nests in brambles and low shrubs. The eggs, one, two or three in number, are hedge-sparrow-blue and very pretty. The number of hen birds should be considerably in excess of that of the cocks, as they are polygamous, and the males, even when at liberty, are very apt to destroy nests containing eggs if their time is not fully occupied in building for new mates, after their first ones have begun to sit.

MADAGASCAR WEAVERS (*Foudia madagascariensis*) seem rather inclined to wander, but I only tried quite a few.

RED-BILLED WEAVERS (*Quelea quelea*) are very shy and nervous, and, the majority stray very soon after their release, so they are not to be recommended for an acclimatization experiment.

COMMON WHYDAHS (*Vidua principalis*) stayed well for some months, but disappeared in the autumn. This may not have been their fault as they were very much disturbed at the feeding places.

COMBASOUS (*Hypochaera oena*) also stayed well for a time and then wandered. They did not appear over-hardy, and, as they are rather late breeders and parasitic, it seems very unlikely they would succeed in maintaining themselves by finding suitable foster-parents for their offspring.

AVADAVATS both RED (*Sporaeginthus amandava*) and GREEN (*Stictospiza formosa*) are bad stayers. Young of the Red species were hatched on one occasion, but a spell of bad weather killed them before they left the nest.

SCARLET TANAGERS (*Rhamphocaelus brasilius*). I obtained a fine acclimatized pair of these birds and released them in a very large, well-ventilated greenhouse. Although fed on on nothing but fruit and live insects (not mealworms) the hen had several fits about a fortnight after she reached me. I released her with the cock and she slowly recovered. The pair stayed about two months and then wandered away for no apparent reason.

A second pair, obtained in early winter, were killed by Owls.

BLUE TANAGERS (*Tanagra episcopus*) were not such good stayers as the Scarlet, but one bird remained with me nearly six months, being ultimately starved to death, owing to food being devoured by Starlings during a spell of very severe weather.

COWBIRDS (*Molothrus bonariensis*) seemed unable to to stand the winter out of doors. It is very unlikely they would be a success at liberty.

AMERICAN BLUEBIRDS (*Sialia sialis*) being insectivorous and migratory are also useless for acclimatization experiments.

GOLDEN-FRONTED FRUITSUCKERS (*Chloropsis aurifrons*) disappeared almost as soon as released, but I am certain that some, at any rate, were taken by Owls and did not stray.

RED-CHEEKED BULBULS (*Otocompsa jocosa*) are very hardy and long-lived at liberty, appearing better able to take care of themselves than any other bird we have experimented with. They are excellent stayers, but very pugnacious, always driving away their young as soon as they can fend for themselves. Even when newly imported it is unwise to keep more than a pair together. They construct a rather loosely made nest in low thick vegetation, usually laying three eggs. The first clutch is infertile, apparently owing to lack of insect food, but the two or three which follow, as a rule produce young. The Red-cheeked Bulbul has some pretty musical call notes, but can scarcely be said to possess a song. The staple food for them at liberty should consist of banana.

RED-VENTED BULBULS (*Pycnonotus haemorrhous*) did not stay when released.

WHITE-CHEEKED BULBULS (*Otocompsa leucogenys*) stayed for several months, but ultimately vanished. They appear perfectly hardy.

CHINESE SPECTACLED THRUSHES (*Trachalopterum canorum*) stayed very well when first released, and several good pairs remained through the winter, appearing well content to eat hemp seed both in mild and severe weather. In April, however, the whole lot disappeared. One pair did actually build in a thick yew tree, and three blue, unspotted eggs were laid, which were about the size of a Song Thrush's. Unfortunately the nest was robbed. Spectacled Thrushes are very free singers. Some never get beyond producing "a cheerful noise," their notes being too hoarse to be altogether pleasant, but one bird we had was a lovely singer and I have never heard anything to equal him.

PEKIN ROBINS (*Liothrix luteus*) stayed for a long time and bred in considerable numbers in a dense copse some distance from the garden. They were practically independent of artificial food, in winter appearing to live principally on privet berries. After about six years they unfortunately disappeared.

This concludes the rather unsatisfactory history of our attempt to acclimatize foreign Finches, Softbills, etc., with the assistance of artificial feeding on a trap tray. Of the many that have been tried Orange Weavers and Red-cheeked Bulbuls alone remain. Still if the life of the subjects of the experiment was too often short, it was, I trust, generally a merry one, and during the brief periods of success I have witnessed many delightful and interesting scenes, which to a certain extent made up for the final losses:

A wild Kingfisher and a cock Orange Weaver in full colour, sitting a few feet apart on a willow by a small pool.

A little flock of Gouldian Finches and Diamond Sparrows feeding along a garden path.

Scarlet and Blue Tanagers chasing each other through a laburnum tree.

Sights such as these are worth seeing and not easily forgotten.

Not the least charming to watch were the oddly assorted groups, which fed on the trap-trays, in comparative harmony. British as well as foreign profited by the abundant fare, only the more spiteful and greedy species receiving a chilly welcome and short shrift if they were found alone. Sometimes the birds of five continents might all be represented at one time a pair of Cardinals, a pair of Saffron Finches, some Weavers, an Indian Chukar Partridge, Avadavats, a Robin, and some Tits, Zebra Finches, and a pair of Bulbuls, all in perfect condition and splendid colour. A Greater Spotted Woodpecker might even join the group for a moment to snatch a monkey nut or a beakful of sunflower seed, and, so bold have these interesting visitors become, that in the early morning when all is quiet they will even venture right into a courtyard surrounded by high buildings in search of their favourite dainties.

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My Pond and its Occupants.

By W. Shore Baily.

To the average Briton, water, whether for bathing or boating on his summer holidays at the sea, for fishing at Easter, or even for his morning bath, has always had a great attraction. In my boyhood days either a pond or a stream had always a great fascination for us boys. There was so much life to be seen either in or on the water. With the microscope in the evening the Rotifera, Amebaor, Water-fleas,

Photo by W. Shore Baily

The Pond and Some of its Occupants.

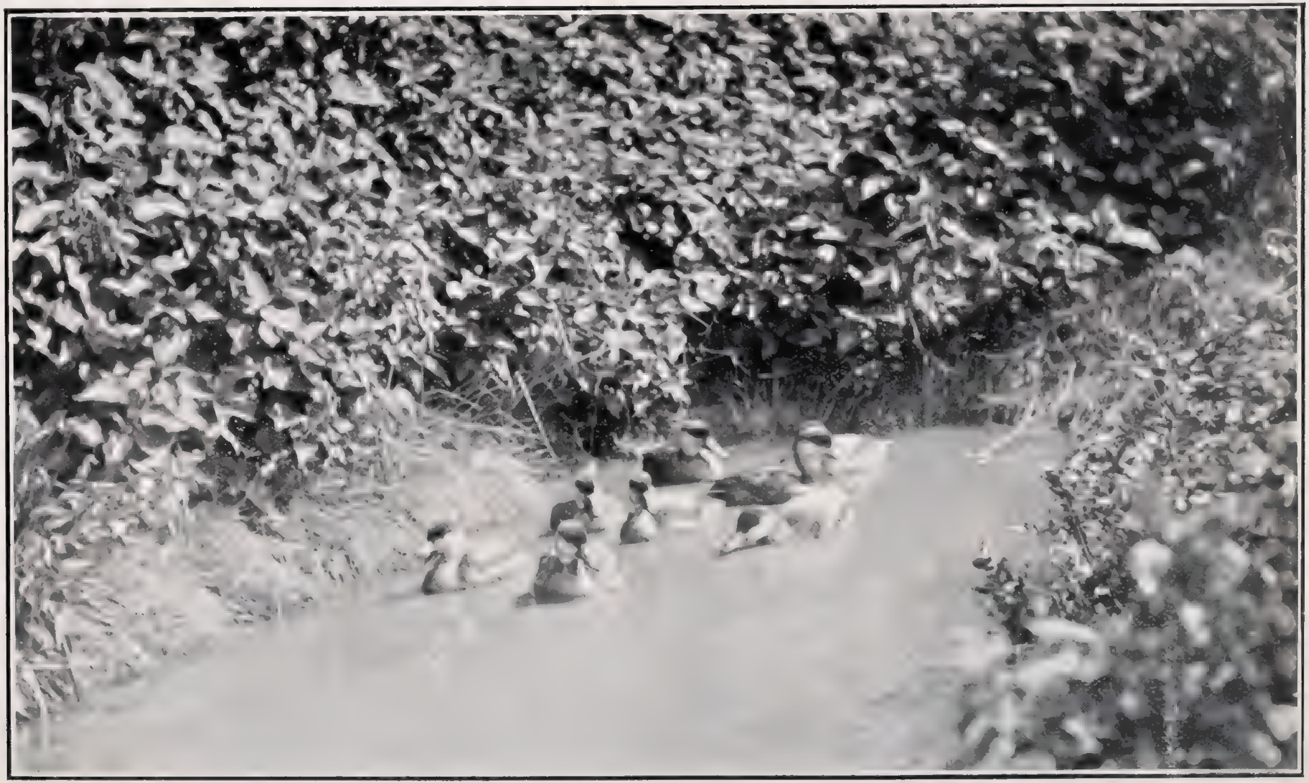

Photo by W. Shore Baily

Young Red-crested Pochards.

etc., were an endless source of amusement, while on the bright days, larger game, in the shape of sticklebacks, minnows, or even small trout, fell victims to our prowess. Since those days the writer has spent quite a slice out of his life either on or near the water, and has used it largely for irrigation purposes "Out West," and for power here in England.

Some fourteen or fifteen years ago it fell to my lot to construct a reservoir for a large factory. Great engineering skill was not required, as the lie of the land enabled it to be built with a retaining bank on two sides only. When finished it covered from two to three acres: the depth of the water at the head, and along the lower side averaged about ten feet, which sloped to a few inches at the higher end and further side. It was filled by a small chalk stream which ran into it. The banks were planted with conifers, laurels, and flowering-shrubs. A couple of hundred yearling rainbow trout were introduced, and, both these and the shrubs made a rapid growth. It may interest those of my readers, who are fishermen, to know, that within three years trout were taken with the fly, weighing over five pounds each.

As the vegetation around the banks began to grow and make cover, birds began to make it their permanent home. The first to visit it was the ubiquitous Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus chloropus*), and they reared young the second year. Our little friend the Dabchick (*Podicipes fluviatilis*), also known as the Little Grebe, soon followed and these have reared young on the pond each year since. Amongst other and rarer visitors have been: Herons (*Ardeidae*), Coots (*Fulica atra*), Sandpipers (*Totanus hypoleucus*), Golden-eyes (*Clangula glaucion*), Scaup (*Fuligula marila*), Pochard (*Nayroca ferina*), Mallard (*Anas boscas*), Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), Teal (*Nettion crecca*), and once only a couple of Little Black-headed Gulls (*Larus minutus*) spent a day or two with us. A Water-Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) lived on the banks all last autumn and winter, and would, at times, allow us to come quite close; I hope it is now nesting somewhere in the neighbourhood. Last season nearly eighty Moorhens were bred on the pond, and these, with a couple of troops of Dabchicks, made it look alive with water-fowl. This gave me the idea that I might as well introduce a few Foreign Wild-fowl, especially as a heavy growth of weed had made fishing impossible.

So, last autumn I introduced pairs each of:

DUCKS. Yellow-billed (*Anas flavirostris*), Mandarin (*Aex galericulata*), Pintail (*Dafila acuta*), Rosy-billed (*Metopiana peposaca*), Red-crested (*Netta rufina*), Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), Chilian and Ruddy Sheldducks (T casarca).

Of these only the Yellow-billed Ducks and Red-crested Pochards nested. The eggs of the former proved infertile, but nine young Red-crests were hatched out and eight of these are now strong, well developed birds. I was rather disappointed with such small results as, I thought that with such good natural surroundings, most of the ducks would have attempted to reproduce their kind.

Nest nad Eggs of Red-crested Pochard.

The little Dabchicks (Little Grebes) have nested twice. Disaster attended their first brood—owing to the water having to be drawn off the pond for a few hours—the young Dabchicks, unlike the young Moorhens, being quite unable to run over the soft mud, perished miserably. The old birds soon went to nest again and five eggs were laid; four of which duly hatched. It is most interesting to watch the old ones feeding them. About three times every minute each parent will dive and return to their young with some choice *tit-bit*; then follows a short spell of rest, the young returning to the nest for their *siesta*. Then off they go again. When I disturbed them by photographing the nest, the cock promptly built two or three other nests in different parts of the pond, to which the young could be taken when they were tired. They always returned to their own nest at night, and I was

Little Grebe and Young.

thus enabled to get a few photos. I may remark here that Dabchicks are not good subjects for the camera, as not only are they naturally shy birds, but are extremely quick in their movements.

To a lover of nature, a very pleasant evening can be spent on the banks of this pond, watching the movements of the various birds. If one only keeps perfectly quiet, very little notice is taken of one's presence. Both the Dabchicks and the Red-crested Pochard will continue their diving operations. The Moorhens will lead their little ones across the water-weeds, their long and wide spreading feet enabling them to negotiate these without difficulty. Now and then a large trout will suck down a fly, with that loud "plop" so dear to the fly-fisher's ear. Swallows, and Martins skim the surface of the water, taking many a fly that would otherwise fall a victim to the hungry trout. If one waits late enough a big Barn Owl (*Strix flammea*) will probably glide by on noiseless wings seeking for some unsuspecting water-rat or vole, or its more active cousin the Tawny Owl (*Syrnium aluco*) may be seen to catch one of the numerous Bats, that are now flitting over the water.

In an adjoining paddock, which has been divided into four enclosures, in each of which is a small pond, supplied from the large pond or from the overflow from the aviaries, the Geese are now calling. I have here Magellan or Upland (*Chloephaga magellanica*), and Egyptian Geese (*Chenalopex aegyptiacus*), White-fronted (*Dendrocycna viduata*), and Fulvous (*D. fulva*) Tree-Ducks, Chilian Wigeon and Carolina Ducks (*Æx sponsa*). The only birds of this group that have nested this year were one pair of Magellan Geese. Unfortunately the pony, a mischievous little wretch, opened the gate of the enclosure and pawed the nest to fragments, just as the eggs were about to hatch, too! It was very disappointing, as this is the second failure I have had with them. Both birds of this pair have one leg broken, and, as it set at almost right-angles to the body, it gave the birds a weird appearance, and made it very surprising, to me, that the eggs should have proved fertile.

As I wander slowly back to the house, the hoarse calls of the Moorhens, together with the quackings and gabblings of the Ducks and Geese, carry my mind back to the many happy days I spent, many years ago, camping on the shores of a much larger pond out in the "Golden West."

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Breeding the Sharp-tailed Finch.

Urolonchus acuticauda.

By R. Suggitt.

No record of the breeding of the Sharp-tailed Finch appears to have been written, but the fact that it has been one of the commonest of aviary birds for a great number of years, and judging by my own experience, quite easy to breed, it is extremely probable that success has been attained before.

It is most difficult to distinguish the sexes in this species as there is no appreciable difference in the plumage or size of the male and female. In selecting my pair from a number of caged specimens, I assumed that the beak and skull of the male would be broader and heavier than that of the female. I placed a small celluloid ring on the right foot of the bird I decided would be the male and a similar one on the left foot of the female. It was by the merest chance that I selected a true pair, for when turned out into the aviary; it was the bird with the ring on the *left* foot that commenced to sing and dance to his mate.

In 1913 the Sharp-tails occupied a rather crowded division of the aviary. Here they were much disturbed by the other birds; a nest was partially built, but soon abandoned, and no other attempt was made that year.

After remaining out of doors for the winter, they were transferred to a less crowded compartment, where the first nest was built in a dead holly branch, fixed to the side of the shelter; a full clutch of eggs was laid, but soon after incubation commenced, I found them scattered about the floor, broken.

Their second attempt was more successful, a new nest was built in the same branch, and quite close to the old one. Incubation commenced sometime during the second week in May, and on the 31st of that month I found that there were newly hatched young in the nest.

Two young birds left the nest on June 18th, and were successfully reared.

The same nest was repaired, and used for the third and fourth clutches. No young were reared from the third, and only one from the fourth. This young bird was on the wing on Nov. 8th, and was fully reared.

Both sexes take their share in the duties of incubation and the feeding of the brood, and very often both are in the nest together.

Perhaps the Sharp-tail is not so nervous a sitter as some of the Mannikins, but it is easily alarmed, and interference with the nest would probably mean desertion, I however risked a peep occasionally. The skin of the naked nestling is flesh-pink; down whitish, short and scanty; corners of mouth white.

The nest is a large sphere, with a very wide entrance hole near the top. Very coarse materials are preferred, such as dead bind-weed or straw, but in the absence of this, dry grass will serve. Sometimes a few feathers are used for the lining.

The young ones may be reared on seed alone, and I have seen their crops distended with millet, but in addition, a large quantity of tender shoots of grass is used.

The white eggs are almost perfect ovals in shape.

The plumage of the young birds on leaving the nest is similar to that of the old birds, but is altogether duller, and not so sharply contrasted.

This season, so far, two young ones are on the wing, almost independent, and the old birds are nesting again.

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Stanley and Many-coloured Parrakeets.

BY. J. SMITH.

In response to your request, though, I fear, I have nothing new to tell, I am sending you an account of my success with these lovely species.

STANLEY PARRAKEET (*Platycercus icterotis*). I have had my pair for about seven years now, and consider I have been fairly fortunate with them, as they have sent fifteen young Stanleys out into the world during that period, and all have been very strong and vigorous birds. They do not seem to mind how many small birds are in the aviary with them, but will not tolerate the presence of the larger species. I have had Cockateels, Rosellas, Many-colours, Black-faced Lovebirds, etc. with them, but have been obliged to remove them or the cock would soon have killed them.

Up to this year they have nested in a log in the shelter; this season for some reason they wished to nest in a box in the flight, which was not suitable, and being outside I feared the cats would disturb them, so I nailed a board over the entrance; this they strongly objected to and with their mandibles cut a way in for themselves, and I closed it up again. They then tried another place outside, which I removed altogether, this so disgusted the hen bird that she did nothing but sulk, and I had given up hopes of a nest this year and vowed that in future I would leave them to take their own way. However, his lordship gave her no peace and kept her inside the inner shed until at last she gave way and went into the old log again. It was most amusing to watch the cock bird, he would sit all day long just at the entrance to the shed, and if his wife offered to come out he drove her in at once, it was fully a month before she gave in—all she did was to sit upon a perch humped up, just as if she were not well. One day I noticed him feeding her again, a sure sign that she intended nesting and soon after I missed her; with a little observation I discovered that she had gone to nest once more in the old log, the scene of her former successes, with the result that now there are four fine young Stanleys on the wing, in grand plumage and have been fending for themselves for at least six weeks—they are a perfect picture.

I attribute my success to giving them any amount of young dandelion every day, from the moment I can procure it until the young are well on the wing. I then find they do not take so much. I will add that the Stanleys and Many-colours will eat a full-sized pail full every three days. I always cut it with a small portion of the root attached, and supply it whole after a thorough washing and the removal of dead and withered leaves. Put in the pail after washing and covered with a damp cloth, it will keep quite fresh and sweet for a full week.

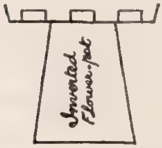
Other details under "General Notes" at end.

MANY COLOUR PARRAKEET (*Psephotus multicolor*). My pair of this species have been with me for about the same period as the Stanleys, but have only reared me six young ones. They would have done better but one year they chose too small a nest, so small, in fact, that only the body of the incubating bird was out of sight. I then took down the nest and fixed up a large barrel, placed the eggs therein and awaited results. For fully half a day the hen would not go near, then she recommenced incubation, but only one chick was hatched out, the other four eggs contained dead chicks. Also the Many-colours did not settle down to breeding proper till the third year owing to my having to learn that they must have a place to themselves; otherwise, with me, they would make no attempt to nest. This I have proved (they even resented the presence of a pair of Zebra Finches) in the past, for as soon as I removed any birds that were in their aviary, they immediately went to nest.

This year they wanted to nest in a log outside, so I nailed up the entrance, but I had to take away the board again and allow them to follow their own sweet bent, otherwise I am convinced they would not have nested at all.

General Notes: These apply to both species. I cannot give incubation periods, as I make a point of not going near the nest or looking in. As regards age, young leave the nest: I calculate the average period to be from five to six weeks, that is, reckoning from the time I first hear the young calling for food to when they leave the nest, when they are fully feathered and almost equal their parents in size.

As regards food, of course, seed is the staple dish. I supply canary, white millet, oats, hemp, and sunflower seeds, each kind in a separate glass dish (glass tongue pots), which I place on a circular tray. I stand the tray on a large inverted flower-pot, and find this keeps mice from the food (*section sketch herewith*). I find this arrangement very convenient as it prevents the seed falling on the floor. Of fruit they eat a fair amount, ripe apple mostly, this I cut in quarters and press against the wire-netting and the skin keeps it tightly in position; they are also fond of raspberries, strawberries and cherries. I also get a sack of barn sweeping at intervals from a local farmer, and I find these very good not only for the Parrakeets, but for all foreign birds, both large and small. I scatter this on the floor of the inner shed three inches thick for the birds to pick over (in the spring I throw some in the outer-flight, and a good crop of grass re-



Section of Seed-tray

sults). Greenfood is regularly supplied, principally dandelion, but this I have already referred to under my notes on the Stanleys. I also supply mealworms about three times a week, say about a dozen at a time, when they are feeding young but the Many-colours will not touch them.

In this war time to obviate waste of seed, I made myself a shallow wooden box with a perforated zinc bottom — the seed shaken about in this gets cleaned, and all husks come to the top and can be easily brushed off; my poultry get the husks so nothing is wasted.

I have had scarcely any results from my small birds this year.

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Hybrid Buntings. *(Cyanospiza cyanea x C. ciris).*

By B. C. Thomasset.

For two years a couple of hen Nonpareil Buntings have lived in one compartment of my aviary, while a cock Indigo Bunting was in the adjoining division.

This spring I noticed that the Indigo was making advances to the brighter of the Nonpareils, which up to that time I had hoped was a young cock. Accordingly I moved her to his compartment. Very soon the birds paired, and the Nonpareil began to collect nesting material. The Indigo Bunting, which had always been a most inoffensive bird, now became very spiteful; constantly chasing and fighting with a pair of Grassfinches.

After a time the desire to nest seemed to pass and I quite gave up hopes of rearing any hybrids. However, about the 1st of July the Nonpareil again began nest building, this time in earnest. She quickly completed an open nest of twigs, coarse grass and wool. It was placed on a flat pine branch in the shelter shed in quite an open position. Just above it was a Diamond Dove's nest.

Three eggs were laid, of a whitish colour, heavily mottled at the larger end with brown. The bird appeared to begin to sit from the time the first egg was laid. On July 17th there was one young bird in the nest, and on the following day there was a second. The other egg was infertile.

Up to this time I had been very careful about approaching the nest, as the Nonpareil had always been a very shy bird. Now her nature changed and she became wonderfully tame and friendly, flying to me as soon as I entered the aviary.

Mealworms, gentles, and best ants' eggs were supplied, all of which were taken freely but in the order named.

On the morning of the 28th, I heard the parents sounding their alarm note, and on entering the shelter, I found the hen Diamond Dove sitting in the Nonpareil's nest. One young one was perched on a branch, whilst the head of the other appeared from under the Dove.

I feel sure that the Dove's intention was good but, as mother Nonpareil seemed distressed at the situation, I made the Dove move off. The second young one immediately fluttered out of the nest and was soon perched by its fellow on a pine twig.

All went well. The mother proving to be a model parent. The Indigo never fed the young ones but employed his time in fighting with the Grassfinches. The amount of live food consumed by the two small birds was really astonishing and unfortunately at this time mealworms proved to be almost unprocurable.

I observed the birds carefully and never saw the young fed from the crop. All food was carried in the beak. As far as I could see, until they were three weeks old insect food alone was consumed. After that time, the mother would shell hemp and canary seed and carry it to them in her beak.

As the young ones learned to feed themselves they gradually lost their taste for an insect diet. Now they live almost entirely on seed and will hardly look at a mealworm or earwig.

In plumage they are midway between the hen Indigo Bunting and hen Nonpareil, but both birds now show slight traces of blue, so I hope that they are cocks.

In the same aviary division, in spite of constant flights, the Long-tailed Grassfinches have managed to rear one brood. The Diamond Doves have two full grown young ones.

In the other division my old pair of Gouldian Finches have reared two broods, eleven birds in all and they are now

(September) sitting on their third nest. The Brush Bronzewing Doves, which share their quarters, have had continuous nests but they have only fully reared two.

[We hope, a little later, *i.e.*, as soon as the young hybrids are in adult plumage, Mr. Thomasset will describe fully their plumage in the various stages. Of course this may take some time, as according to my experience the Nonpareil takes about three years before donning full adult plumage, and also its plumage differs but little at any period of the year, while the Indigo, as is common knowledge, passes into eclipse plumage during the winter months. It will be interesting to know to what extent the hybrids are affected by these conditions.—ED.].

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Indian Birds.

Dear Indian Birds, I have loved you so,
From the Minivet to the vulgar Crow.
I can spare a moment to think of you all,
Sultan Bird, White-eyes, and Karwal.
Bright blue Rollers sitting on high.
A jewelled patch against the sky.
The fierce wild Shrike, who hangs his prey
Up in a bush for another day.
The beautiful Sunbird, hovering bright,
All iridescent in the light.
The Hoopoe quick and slim and sleek,
Busy, crested, and curved of beak.
That small mud-Minah, his name I've heard,
"That little bird Mem sahib Powey bird."
There flitting about the cheery Treepie,
Gives his musical whistling metallic cry.
Other birds, too, I now recall,.
And remember how I saw them all.
A dear little Shama, I can't think yet
How he got inside my mosquito net.
Brown and white, and slim and shy,
I let you out, and away you fly.

Now see that busybody go,
Always fussing, the black King Crow,
Other birds must obey his law,
That's what he thinks King Crows are for.
Other birds to roost must go
Quick, at the order of old King Crow.
Shrike and Roller are meek, I vow,
Anything better than all this row.
He is hunting Crows with an angry shriek,
Who have twice his size and power of beak.

Bright Green Parrots flash in the sun,
Almost before the day has begun,
And winging their way in steady flight,
We see them wending back at night.
Creeping into a crack when they get home
Bright jewels on opal of marble dome,
Great courts echoing to their cries,
Where kings have lived, and a dynasty dies.

Minah walking with hurried strut,
With very flat feet in a dusty rut,
Sitting on tent—rope at break of day,
Whistling and creaking his morning lay.
One minute cheery, and full of fun,
Then frenzy and fury and battle begun,
Then stealing for nesting paper or hay,
Why, Minahs, you change like an April day.

On verandah steps, full of talk and chat,
Some birds are inspecting my old door-mat.
The Seven-sisters, dull and brown,
Like a lot of old maids from a country town.
Always fussing about in a crowd,
Of their family likeness rather proud.

Yes, Green Barbet, I have listened long.
To the throbbing cry, that you think a song.
It's quite without feeling, happy or sad,
And in the hot weather it drives men mad.

Then the horrible Kite birds, yellow and white,
Who walk on the roof in the silent night,
Rustling their feathers, and giving a croak,
As over a bone they fight and choke.

Well. Indian Birds, good-bye to you,
I say farewell, with a sigh to you,
And if India again I no more see,
Your memory will always stay with me.

MARGARET NOEL.

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Correspondence.

BREEDING OF RED-COLLARED LORIKEETS.

(Trichoglossus rubritorques).

Sir,—I think you may be interested to hear that at last I have been successful in breeding and rearing a young Red-collared Lorikeet.

When I came here from Edinburgh in the beginning of April, as I usually do, I brought all my birds to their summer quarters, and, as the pair of Lorikeets had seemed anxious to nest before I took them out of their large cage in Edinburgh, I put them in one of the compartments of the birdroom and put up a barrel for them to nest in.

I had friends with me all May and was only in the birdroom feeding and giving a look round. I *never once* saw the hen Lorikeet come out or go into the nest barrel, they were always sitting together on the perch furthest away from it each time I went in. In the last week of June I heard, what I thought was the sound of a young bird, but, as my pair of Red-rumps were also nesting in the next compartment, I hoped they had young, and, it was not until I found that the Lorikeets were eating more food than usual that it occurred to me that they might have a fledgeling in the nest. So I got a chair, climbed up, looked into the barrel, and saw something moving at the back of it. By that time I should think the young bird must have been about a month old at any rate, for one could see the yellow tinge of the breast feathers. At once I gave the parents extra food, they fed splendidly and ten days ago the little Lorikeet ventured out of the nest. It was fully fledged and as brightly coloured as its parents, only rather smaller. Naturally I am very pleased about it.

The compartment they nested in is really only a big cage, about 3 feet square and 6 feet high. Their regular food is the usual sop-mixture of Mellin's Food, Horlick's Malted Milk, and honey, mixed with boiling water and poured over one and a half tea biscuits, they always have canary seed in the cage, of which they eat a good lot. When I found they were feeding young I gave each evening one third of a sponge cake with Nestle's milk (one teaspoonful with a little boiling water) poured over it, and plenty of greenfood.

The young bird now partly feeds itself and I wonder if I ought to take it away from the parent birds. I believe they would nest again but I cannot allow them to do so, as we make the move back to Edinburgh in October, and the birds must all go too. I really think it is wonderful that they have been so successful, because my birds have so much moving about that one would think there was hardly any time to settle down to nesting: you see seven months of the year I am here and the other five months in Edinburgh.

I thought this might interest some of our members, perhaps as much as it has interested me.

(Miss) E. G. R. PEDDIE WADDELL.

Blaquhatstone, Stamannan,
Stirlingshire, 25/8/'15.

FOREIGN FINCH CANARY CROSSES.

Sir,—I do not know if an Alario Finch × Canary is an unusual hybrid. My pair built a nest in the middle of May, the canary laid three eggs, and commenced incubation on May 27th. On June 6th the eggs hatched out, and on June 28th, two young birds left the nest (the third young one had disappeared), but only one is alive now. It is a fine and strong bird, rather like a young Thrush in its markings, with no trace at present of either parent in its plumage, etc. I think it is a cock, as he has a very masterful demeanour, even driving his father off the seed dish.

The Alario assisted in the feeding of the young birds and was very interested in the building of the nest.

Beyond Zebra Finches, Canaries, and Goldfinch mules I have not reared many young birds this year.

Bitterne, 7/9/'15. Mrs C. M. DAVIDSON.

COLLECTING ANTS' "EGGS" (COCOONS).

Sir,—I was much interested in Dr. L. Lovell-Keays' article on "The Breeding of Bearded Tits" which appeared in August issue of "Bird Notes," but if he will pardon my saying so, I consider his method of procuring ants' eggs both troublesome and messy. I could gather a sack of these without a grain of foreign matter, with the exception of a few of the ants themselves, and they would be as sweet, clean and dry as when taken out of the nest.

For the method of making and manipulating of the appliance I use, and many other valuable hints, I am indebted to Mr. John Frostick. One of his tips was' that in case of emergency, an ordinary sheet of newspaper should answer the purpose, and this I have fallen back upon with quite satisfactory results when I have unexpectedly dropped across a nest of young Wrynecks or Tree Creepers, flush in the nest, and no food to hand.

I must congratulate Dr. Lovell-Keays upon being fortunate in dropping across such a mild colony of ants. Those of the Severn Valley, where I collect mine, are most vicious little brutes. When setting out collecting, I always take the precaution of socking my trouser bottoms, and fix hands and coat sleeves in strong leather garden gloves. At times, when I have to collect in an emergency for unexpected stock, and have to use my naked hands, these have been absolutely flayed with the fluid the Severn Valley ants possess and eject.

Leicester, ARTHUR SILLS.
September 15, 1915.

[The newspaper method is given in some bird books, but evidently many are unacquainted therewith, and possibly Mr. Frostick's method differs from the original one. We should be greatly obliged if Mr. Frostick would kindly describe his methods, with diagrams if necessary, for the benefit of readers of "B.N."—Ed.].

TALKING BULLFINCH.

Sir,—I thought the following account of a Bullfinch I saw this week would be of interest to our members.

It is five years old, and is one of a nest of five taken from Shirley Woods Surrey.

It did not talk till after its first moult, when its owner, Mrs. Marsh, who reared it, was surprised to hear it say "Pretty Joey." He talks to command, to start with, and then continues on as under·

"Pretty. Pretty Joey whose pretty Joey?"

"Very Pretty, jump up, jump up."

"Come and give us a kiss."

"That's a good boy, that's a pretty boy."

"Kiss, kiss, kiss," and imitates kissing.

He then whistles an octave in perfect time and finishes by piping the first half of "Bonnie Dundee."

His voice is very sweet and as plain as the best talking Parrot I have heard. The interrogatory tone in which he says "Whose pretty, Joey"? is really wonderful.

I also saw another Bullfinch, nest brother to above, which says: "Pretty, pretty," "Kiss, kiss," and whistles an octave.

I was so charmed by them, that I have been twice to hear them perform.

CHARLES DELL.

Harlesden 29/9/'15.

◆

Birds of the Jhelum District and an Ornithological Diary from the Punjab.

By H. Whistler, I.P., M.B.O.U.

(Continued from page 236).

December 18.—A party of seven guns, including myself, went to a well-known jheel near Sirsa to shoot duck and were rewarded with a good bag. This formed a splendid opportunity for observing the bird life of the jheel and I made the following notes.

Of Ducks, by far the most numerous were Common Teal and a long way after them came the Shovellers; Spot-bill (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) were perhaps next common, but there were also a large number of Pintail and Gadwell. The Mallard had apparently not yet arrived for very few were seen and only one was brought to bag. With the exception of some eight or ten Ruddy Sheldrakes and a few Tufted Duck no other species was actually killed or identified.

Very large numbers of Geese arrived on the jheel at mid-day, while we were lunching, but they were too cunning to give any of the guns a chance, either resting on the water, water well out in the middle, or else rising up high into the sky and circling above the jheel far out of shot before flying away. Two flocks of Demoiselle Cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*) were seen, but only one Pelican, in place of the numbers that were here when I last visited the spot. A small flock of White Storks (*Ciconia alba*) and about twenty Herons (*Ardea cincrea*) completed the list of the larger birds.

Waders were not particularly noticeable; a small party of Curlew left one of their number behind to grace my collection, and there were a few Redshanks, Green Sandpipers, and Marsh Sandpipers about the edges of the water. Here and there from the rushy patches a Snipe was flushed. I only saw one party of Stints.

Of Plover were noted a solitary Green Lapwing and some the pretty little White-tailed Lapwing (*Cheltusia leucura*).

These as well as the common Red-wattled Lapwing (*Sarcogrammus indicus*) were feeding on the mud, while in the open country near the jheel we found a large flock of Sociable Lapwings (*Chethisia gregaria*).

Coots were common on the water, but there were only a few Indian Dabchicks (*Podiceps albipennis*).

A few immature Gulls beating about over the jheel were probably Yellow-legged Herring Gulls (*Larus cachinnans*). No Terns were seen with the exception of a single Indian Skimmer (*Rhynchops albicollis*).

As is usual on occasions of this kind a number of Eagles were keeping a careful look out for wounded birds, and in the distance across the water I could see a huge eyrie in a tree, doubtless of *Haliaetus leucocoryphus*. Plenty of Marsh Harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*) were also beating round, and doubtless disposed of many wounded Teal. In a tree some fifty yards from the water an old White-backed Vulture (*Pseudogyps bengalensis*) was sitting on her solitary egg.

A pleasing variety in the bag was added by the presence of large numbers of Eastern Stock Doves (*Columba eversmanni*) which were frequenting some Kikur trees near the water, and continually passed in small parties over some of the butts.

One or two *Hirundo rustica* noted.

◆

Late News.

NESTING OF BLACK-TAILED HAWFINCH: We regretted to hear from Miss A. B. Smyth, that the last young one died when fully fledged and apparently ready to leave the nest.

NESTING OF PEKIN ROBINS: We are pleased to state that the two young birds referred to on pages 269-73 of this issue have been fully reared. Full details of nestling plumage will appear in a later issue.

OCCIPITAL BLUE-PIES (*Urocissa occipitalis*). Dr. M. Amsler has succeeded in rearing young of this species which is a most notable event. We have details of this episode, but as this issue was then in the press they cannot appear till next month.

CONSIGNMENT OF RARE TANAGERS: We have been unable to complete our summary of this marvellous series in time for this issue, and it will consequently appear in our next.

EDITORIAL NOTES: We are pleased that these have been crowded out by more interesting copy.

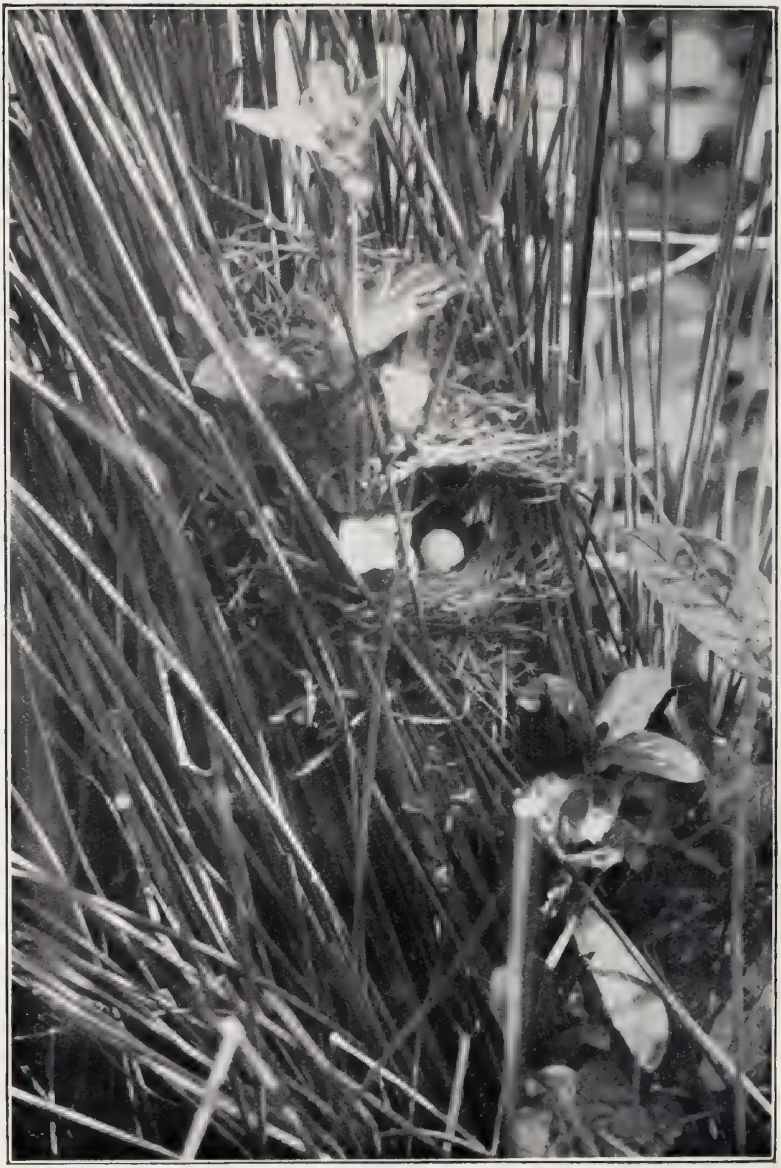

Photo by W. Shore Bailey.

Nest and Eggs of Taha Weavers.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Breeding of Taha Weavers *(Pyromelana taha).*

BY W. SHORE-BAILY.

In the autumn of 1913 two or three of the dealers were advertising Taha Weavers at the not very extravagant price of 15s. per pair. As at that time I was, and still am, for that matter, very much interested in Weavers of all kinds, I asked the dealer to send me a pair. On their arrival, I at first thought that a mistake had been made, and that a pair of Napoleons had been sent, but on a more careful examination I found that the black on the males' breast was carried right up to the throat. This is the only way, as far as I can see, in which they differ from the cock of *P. afra.* The hens of the two varieties are indistinguishable. In the spring of 1914 I secured a second pair from one of our lady members, and these were turned together with the first pair into a large out-door aviary, both cocks being at the time out of colour.

They got their breeding plumage in June, but no attempt was made at nest building. They simply spent all their time chasing each other all over the aviary. Very pretty they looked, too, darting in and out of the tall artichoke stalks, reminding one of the large black and yellow butterflies one sees in Central America.

This spring, after having wintered them indoors, I turned them into another aviary containing laurel and box bushes, also some clumps of common rushes. In with them amongst other birds were a flock of Napoleon Weavers, making altogether a grand display of colour.

In the middle of July one of the hens built a very neat dome-shaped nest in the rushes. On the 17th of the month two eggs were laid, white, lightly spotted with brown, and a rather long oval in shape. They were quite one third larger than those of a Napoleon Weaver that laid at the same time. On the 30th both young were hatched, and they were fed from the start on mealworms which the hen had first swallowed. After a few days wasps' grubs and bread and milk were also taken by the hen, and, I have no doubt that she also visited the seed-pan. The cock took no part in the rearing of his progeny, but was careful to keep all other birds away from the vicinity of the nest. On August 7th the

Young Taha Weavers in Nest. *Photo by W. Shore Baily.*

little ones eyes were open and they were beginning to feather. On the 13th they left the nest. Both birds were, like the adult hen, but, I fancy that the buff eyebrow streak on one was more pronounced than on the other. Probably this would be the male. On my return from my holiday at the end of the month I found that one bird had fallen a victim to the attack of a pair of Saffron Finches, and that the other had grown up nicely and was looking after itself.

I also found that the parents were again sitting, this time in a shrub and in quite a different type of nest. Instead of being domed, it was the shape of a deep and narrow cup, the eggs being plainly visible and quite exposed to the elements. Whereas in their first nest they were invisible to a person standing directly in front, and I had to pack them up in the nest, so as to get them to show in the photo. This time three eggs were laid, but one was much smaller than the others and proved to be infertile. On Sept. 1st two young were hatched, and in the fine weather we were then experiencing grew apace. The nest was quite close to the door of the flight and the hen was consequently driven off many times a day by passers by, and, I should not have been surprised if she had failed to hatch her eggs, as a Napoleon Weaver near the other aviary door twice failed to bring off any young from this reason. On the 14th the young being fully feathered I got a photo of them, and the next day they left the nest, which the cock promptly demolished, as appears to be the custom with most Weavers, as soon as the young birds have left, or their eggs have been taken.

P. taha is a South African species and I doubt if its range extends far enough to reach the habitat of *P. afra*. Should it do so, I should think it extremely likely that the two varieties would interbreed. I shall try and get a hybrid from them in these aviaries next season. Since writing the above they have again nested. This time in a laurel and within 18 inches of the nest of an Orange Weaver. This, of course, led to fighting and one morning I found both nests and their contents on the ground. With reference to the Tahas hybridizing it is interesting to note that I have a young hybrid from a Taha cock, and an unnamed hen, now, October 15th, four days old. If reared, I shall hope to send further particulars to "B.N," later on.

Breeding Results at Park Lodge Aviaries.

By Dr. L. Lovell Keays, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 183).

Cardinals: In a previous communication I made the remark that my breeding results were nothing to write home about. If that be so, they are still less to write away about, and in a magazine such as "Bird Notes" I feel I must apologise—(*quite unnecessary*, Ed.)—for intruding every time I write. If the membership falls off, I shall feel partly to blame.

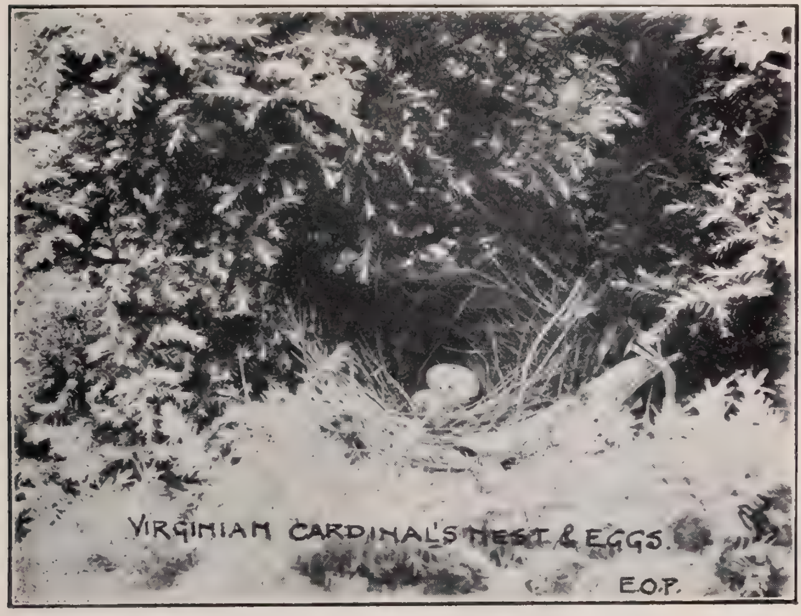
It is proposed to deal with Cardinals in this literary effort, and noting a few interesting points as observed in a natural wilderness aviary.

My Virginian Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) came into my possession in 1913, and spent their first summer in what, after seeing Mr. Willford's immense and palatial aviaries, I should describe as a good sized cage, measuring twenty feet square, with a large brick-built shelter-shed attached. It was in this aviary that Red-crested Cardinals (*Paroaria cucullata*) were reared in 1914, and about which a few random remarks were written in a previous issue of "B.N." (*vide pp.* 148-50).

About these Red-crested Cardinals I have a somewhat amusing and humiliating (*why humiliating?* Ed.) announcement to make. The two gloriously tuneful cocks which sang with such ecstacies of delight turned out to be two hens. I inferred they were two cocks because of their incessant and beautiful song. The two supposed cocks were put into my large Waders' aviary, and, although friendly, were not over interested in each other. Had there been a bird of the sterner sex present I fear they would not have been friendly. As it was, it was simply a case of Bulgarian "armed neutrality." In the same aviary was a widowed Yellow Sparrow (*Passer luteus*), who was untiring and unceasing in building a nest over the main pathway and in a somewhat precarious position. This Sparrow-fellow was a bit of a performer, and to see him transporting huge pieces of stick four or five times his own length and, one would judge, far heavier than himself filled me with wonder. I used to call it "playing the Blondin," for it reminded me very much of that famous tight-rope walker. Mr. Sparrow was madly in love with another Sparrow's wife, and he built this edifice opposite the front door of the other Yellow Sparrow's abode. He did this with a double purpose. Firstly, it was that he might watch his adored one from his own tenement, and secondly, that he might irritate and annoy his hated rival. But the hated rival was on the whole seemingly rather indifferent, and the lady, so far from encouraging an illicit intrigue, displayed an exemplary wrath and indignation against the attentive widower. At the same time she appeared to regard her lawful husband as a kind of amateur politician and strategist, for he did very little to help her in the house. The children, as is usual, looked upon their father with unrestrained awe. He was indeed the man of wrath; Ivan the Terrible. But "What about Cardinals" you ask, and by the question I am recalled from the world of romance. If you were to ask the Yellow Sparrow widower, he would agree that the Cardinals certainly did not only come into the picture, but even filled it. They appropriated this exceedingly well ventilated nest and, in defiance of all natural laws, one of the "cock" birds laid three eggs in it. The widowed Sparrow was most indignant; the other Sparrows were rather relieved. The writer was rather puzzled, but like Brer Rabbit "laid low and said nuffink." The Red-crested Cardinals were easily distinguished, as one had not yet assumed the full brilliance of adult plumage and its crest was distinctly patchy. When the older Cardinal was away the younger one would slyly approach the nest and surreptitiously remove a few of the principal beams and joists. I then knew that Cardinal No. 2 was a female. No male bird would have thought of so diabolical a bit of spite out of sneer jealousy. The eggs were exactly like a lark's, only longer and very small for the size of the bird. They proved to be clear, which gave me an additional, although by no means certain, proof that I had two hens. However, Sir Leo Chiozza Money very kindly presented me with, what proved to be, an undoubted cock bird. The old hen was the successful and fortunate damsel. The younger one lacked experience and so was caught up, and now graces the aviary of Dr. Hopkinson, at Brighton, where, I understand, she has taken complete control of his varied assortment of birds. With the advent of the cock, nesting operations ceased. One so often finds that where a married couple are so very all-in-all to each other they forget their parental duties. Personally I am getting tired of their honeymoon antics and hope they will settle down to the serious duties of family rearing next summer. They are well behaved towards the other inmates of the aviary, although so much display of affection in public rather irritates and tries the more lofty-minded of their avian neighbours.

Leaving the Red-crests saying sweet nothings in a fir-tree we will hark back to the Virginian Cardinals, which we rather suddenly and rudely left on the front door-step of this article.

When the hen Virginian Cardinal came into my possession, at considerable cost to the exchequer, I was cheered by various aviculturists casting aspersions on her sex. From which it is fairly obvious that they had never bred this species, as they are quite easy to sex within two months of leaving the nest. But with the advent of the spring of 1915 she still retained her brown dress and black trimmings, so I decided to turn them into my largest aviary, measuring 50 feet x 30 feet (approximately). They went to nest at once, building two or three nests and laying two clutches of eggs before settling down to serious business. The nest was built of exactly the same material and exactly the same way each time. Externally it consisted of leaves of a large Bamboo (*Bambusa metake*), and lined with coarse grass. The photograph shows this very clearly—the nest was built in a Retinospora. It is deeply cup-shaped and fairly strong, but decidedly small for so large a bird. The eggs numbered three to a clutch each time, and were very like those of the Red-crests but not quite so narrow and more distinctly blotched, as seen in the photograph. The birds were extremely secretive in building and evaded my watchful eye on more than one occasion until the nest was completed and the eggs laid. The hen appears to do practically all the building. The cock is apparently too busy singing a very beautiful and melodious tune, although very restricted as regards variety. During the breeding season he is distinctly pugnacious, but only bothers about birds similarly coloured. To his disturbed vision a cock Red-billed Weaver seemed to offer itself as a fair object of resentment and anger. But the weaver was quite able to look after himself, and the net result was, that the Weaver developed into a Marathon winner and rather enjoyed the chase just as it is said the fox does. But the Weaver lived to become quite a nuisance when live-food was distributed for the birds with young, and, after a while the Cardinal gave up the chase, when the babies began to cry. He proved a model husband and father. He sang to his wife the live-long day and on fine nights—not by bawling into her ear at close quarters, but at a respectful distance, whence she could hear or ignore him at will, but never forget him. She left the nest two or three times a day to feed, and he was most attentive, giving her any dainties he could find, but nothing seemed to give her greater pleasure than the petals of the common Yellow Iris, or Flag, of which there are a good many in this aviary. The incubation period was apparently 11-12


VIRGINIAN CARDINAL'S NEST & EGGS.
E.O.P.

days, according to the entries in my diary. The young, which are very like young thrushes when first hatched and covered with a very little down, are reared entirely on live-food. I do not believe that any seed is given at all, nor do they take any seed until long after they have left the nest. Unless one is prepared to supply an unlimited number of meal-worms, or systematically go and feed the parents every two hours with some sort of live-food, one must be prepared for failure.

The young grow as rapidly as the provision of meal-worms allow, and leave the nest on the twelfth day. They are then quaint little creatures, rusty-brown in colour, with

Young Virginian Cardinal.—Just out of Nest. Photo E. O. Page practically no tails and the baby down still on the head. The eyes are quite bare and there is a distinct crest. They look for all the world like a young bird of the Thrush-family, except for colour and the crest, and, of course, are termed "Branchers" at this stage. They have a stupid vacant look and poor power of flight. The photograph shows all these characteristics most excellently, but we were unable to get one of the hen bird feeding, as the camera frightened her, though partially screened inside the shelter-shed. Very soon the young birds disappear into the bushes, and one only comes across them from time to time by chance. The young do not manifest that family feeling that is so charming in the Waxbills, and a family re-union is unknown. In eighteen days from the time the young left the nest the hen bird was sitting again, and left entire charge of the babies to the cock, who proved a most excellent baby-feeder and rearer, for all three young were fully reared, and he ministered to their wants till the second family were hatched out, which happened thirty-three days after the first brood left the nest. Then the cock bird directed his efforts to feeding the second family, and the first brood had to fend for themselves. By this time they were quite easy to sex, as the young cocks had dark reddish splashes, but the hen remained a dark rusty-brown, with dull reddish points. At this time the young had all grown full length tails, but appeared very much smaller than their parents. They were intensely wild, and subsisted very largely on fruit and live-food, supplemented by insectile mixture and at the last a little seed. I sold a pair to Mr. Astley, but I regret to say the hen died three days afterwards, apparently from some injury. I rather suspected it was change of environment.

With regard to the second brood, I fear a veil must be drawn over these. For, exactly five days after they left the nest, I had to be out all day, and in my absence nobody properly ministered to their wants. The result was that on the seventh day all were dead, and as far as I know they they were dead by the sixth day. The skin of one is now in the British Museum, as the authorities are only too glad to get skins of birds in the nestling plumage. The loss of my second nest of young made me feel very sad, and, of course, was a real loss, since these birds command quite a good price. It only proves what I have pointed out before that nothing can replace the personal element. The bird-lover is born, not made, and no amount of willingness can compensate for a lack of that true understanding that is at once both as indispensable as it is necessary to the successful rearing of birds in an aviary. I had exactly the same experience with my last Zosterops—the circumstances were so identical that the similarity of result could hardly have been a coincidence.

I had intended writing about my Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristatus*), but I feel that this must suffice for one instalment, and, I must allow my readers a "breather" before inflicting a further literary effort on them, for the present at least.

I will just epitomise one or two obvious conclusions before writing Finis, and they are:—

1. Do not be positive of the sex of your birds either on your own or other people's authority.
2. If your Cardinals have not nested try turning them into a large aviary.
3. Remember even many seedeaters rear their young almost entirely on live-food.
4. Do not send young birds away until thoroughly "on seed," and after they have been caged up for a week at least, to make sure they are taking their food.
5. Don't count your chickens before they are hatched—but don't count *on* them till long after that.

(*To be continued*).

◆

Some Notes on the Brown-quilled Rock Dove.

By the Marquis of Tavistock.

As I believe I am the first aviculturist who has had the chance of keeping this rare Australian Dove in England, the following notes, though very incomplete, may be of sufficient interest for publication. Rather more than two years ago 9 specimens of *Petrophassa rufipennis* were sent me by a dealer, and as I have unfortunately no aviary accommodation for Pigeons, I was obliged to adopt the rather risky plan of turning them out with cut wings in a large enclosure containing a shelter of glass and woodwork.

P. rufipennis is slightly smaller than the Australian Bronze-winged Pigeon, and of rather the same build. The plumage is dark chocolate, thickly spangled on the head, neck, and upper breast with pearly whitish spots which give the bird the appearance of being covered with dewdrops. The flight feathers are bright chestnut and the feet and beak brown. The sexes appear to be alike.

After being turned out my birds spent most of their time in the shelter referred to, sitting huddled up together in a long row with feathers ruffled and heads sunk between their shoulders. Their attitude was one of extreme dejection, but I have good reason to believe they were neither unhealthy nor unhappy. They were very tame and allowed themselves to be approached closely. Only when one was within a few feet of them, would they bestir themselves, running off rapidly on their very short legs and making quick nervous movements with their heads. On reaching a safe distance, they would stop, ruffle their feathers, huddle up together, and relapse into a state of coma. The only note I heard them utter was a short low coo, sometimes repeated rather quickly two or three times. They never quarrelled either among themselves or with other birds, and I never witnessed any courting display, although a pair would occasionally caress each other.

Remembering that they were natives of an extremely dry hot part of Australia, I feared that my Brown-quilled Rock-Doves would do badly during the winter months, but my fears were not justified, for although their shelter was practically unheated, only one—the roughest of the lot – got ill during the cold weather, and that recovered on being placed in a hot room. After their wings had grown the Doves unfortunately began to disappear at intervals, one by one, and nothing more was heard of them. They never perched in trees, alighting, after being disturbed, either on the ground or on a rock or the ledge of a building. Their flight was low and rapid, but they seldom went more than fifty yards at a time. When spring came, only four out of the original nine remained. One very nice pair made their home on the house and stables, and I had great hopes that they might breed. Unfortunately, however, one of them met with an accident, and soon afterwards the hen of the second pair was killed by a dog. A third disappeared, and by the autumn only a single bird remained.

I may add that the Doves were fed upon the usual mixture of small seeds.

◆

The Breeding of the Brown-eared Conures.

By W. Shore Bailey.

Nesting, as do most of the Parrots, deep down at the bottom of some hollow limb, particulars of their breeding operations are not easy to obtain. In my aviaries the nesting boxes already illustrated in "B.N." make a very efficient substitute for the hollow log, and they have the advantage that the inmates can be examined at any time. It is of course, as they grow so slowly, not nearly so interesting to watch young Parrots in the nest, as to note the progress of young softbills and hardbills in the baby stages, but our Editor wants it done, when any bird is bred here in captivity for the first time, and, of course he must be obeyed.

Last autumn our member, Mr. Silver, informed me he had a pair of Conures, that differed in one or two respects from the Brown-throated Conure (*C. aeruginosus*), figured in Seth Smith's book ("Parrakeets") and he thought that they must be *C. ocularis*. Although at the time I was rather full up with Parrakeets and Conures of different kinds, I thought that as the variety had never been bred in captivity, it was an opportunity that ought not to be missed, so I asked him to send them on. On their arrival I turned them into an aviary containing Black-headed Conures, Rosella Parrakeets, and various small birds. About a week later I found the hen in a state of collapse on the floor of the aviary. I fancy that the Black-heads must have kept her away from the seed tray—she had been practically starved. I quickly removed both birds to my indoor birdroom,

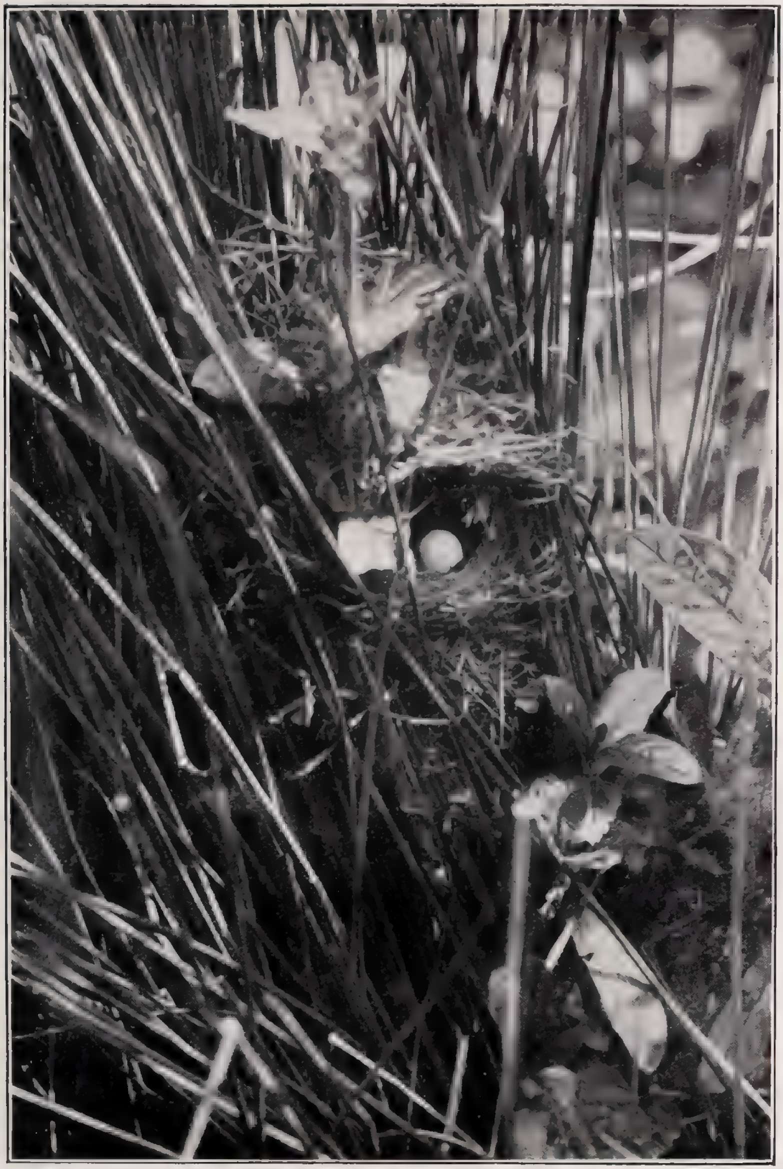


Photo by W. Shore Bailey.

Nest and Eggs of Taha Weavers.

where she soon picked up strength again. In the cage they were very tame and would take fruit, etc., from the fingers. Their tempers were, however, very easily upset by teasing, and they would then go through a number of extraordinary evolutions, such as standing on tip-toe, raising the feathers of the head, spreading their wings and tail, etc., all the time keeping up a weird chattering, and making dabs at one's fingers. Unlike their small cousins the Canary-wings (*B. virescens*) and Tuis (*B. tui*), they would never actually bite. These two last named birds, although equally tame, will fasten on to one's hands like bulldogs, and often draw blood. Mr. Seth Smith in his book says that Tuis can't bite. I should like him to try a bite from mine!!

This spring I turned the Brown-ears into a well planted out-door aviary containing five or six pairs of small birds, Doves, etc., and I was pleased to see that they took no notice of them; also, that they were not in the least destructive to the plant life. At the end of May I noticed that they were inspecting one of my nesting boxes. On June 6th the first egg was laid. It was of a dirty white colour about the size of a Rosella's, but rather pear-shaped. On the 10th she commenced to incubate a clutch of five eggs. The cock joined her every night, but whether he shared in the duties of incubation, or simply kept guard over the nest, I am unable to say. The hen left the box about once a week for a little exercise. On the 29th the first young one was hatched, and two more emerged the next day; the other two eggs were infertile. They were ugly little creatures, and most of their bodies consisted of head and bill. On July 6th I had another look at them, they were still blind and naked, but had grown considerably. On the 11th there was no change, except in size. A week later their eyes were just opening, and they were beginning to feather. On the 20th they were about half-feathered. A week later they were fully fledged, except on the head, the feathers of which were only half grown. On August 12th the first one left the nest, nearly nine weeks after the first egg was laid. In colouring they were exactly like their parents, a description of which I give here:

General body-colour green; crown of head blue; forehead, lores, cheeks, ear-coverts, and throat brown; underparts yellowish green.

They differ from *C. aeruginosus* by having no orange around eye or on breast.

In conclusion I would say that they are very pretty and desirable aviary birds.

◆

A Hundred Yard's Bird Stroll.

BY MAJOR G. A. PERREAU, F.Z.S.

[The following extracts are from a private letter and were not written for publication, but I have taken the liberty of using them, as of interest to many readers—in such circumstances the notes must not be taken as comprehensive of the birds of the 'compound, but merely the passing observation of half an hour, and therein, we think, lies its chief charm.—ED.].

"I have been away on the frontier and was glad to "get a spell here again. . . there have been a lot of fires "among the pines (Chil, not deodar) round and a bit higher "up, and the station is full of birds. Crossing the nullah "between my compound and that of a brother officer is an "exquisite delight, and looking down a small glen at the side "of my compound is almost better. In the former I stand "still and gloat, just turning my head slowly to watch some "particular bird. After a bit a White-eye will say "Hulloa, "now what can that be?" and sounds the call for the in-"quisitive; and, though there was previously no dearth of "birds, one is surprised at the number that appear almost at "once: twenty to thirty White-eyes, half as many pretty "Yellow and Grey Warblers, some charming Red-billed Tit-"Babblers, I can never see more than two at a time, but "feel there must be more—this is a very rare bird here, "though there have been a few often in my compound for "some years, and a few inquisitive White-cheeked Bulbuls. "These all come close, to inspect and talk a good deal, the "Flycatchers (Paradise and Fantail), who have been playing "round some way off, come close and take a hand, two "families of Paradise, with two lovely white cocks and a "pair of Fantail. These last regularly attack me always "from behind—poor little things! it is not I who am respons-"ible for your new but destroyed nest a few yards off. If "you'd get a bit more under shelter with that nest, as you "usually do, you would have brought that lot up safely as "your Long-tailed friends have their last brood from the nest "not ten yards from yours, which had no chance with the "hail."

"I continue standing still, and the noise increases with "each lot of new comers: a pair of Blue-headed Rock-"Thrushes and their three young, some young Magpie Robins "and Indian Pied Bush-Chats, all noisy, and except the first, "very fearless, then come an adult and three young Verditer "Flycatchers, early visitors from higher up. These and a pair "of Brown Flycatchers take no hand in the mobbing, which "is curious, as Verditers are very bold in attacking Little "Owls. A pair of Orioles, a few Drongos, half a dozen "Black Bulbuls fly past but take no part; the latter usually "appear later. After about five minutes the crowd finds "there's some mistake and thins out, carrying on their ordin-"ary business."

"During the one hundred yards or so to the house I "pass the birds' bathing pool or pools, where the pipe-water "runs down a small open channel to the vegetable garden "I have just left. Here one meets with many of the birds "just enumerated and a few others splashing about or preen-"ing themselves in the bushes round. A smart Blue Chat slips "away on my appearance, another early arrival, he does not "return, but I get glimpses of him lower down; a pair of "Grey Tits and some Sparrows are thoroughly enjoying them-"selves in the water, and a bunch of tiny Yellow-backed "Warblers are searching the big medlar tree in their thorough "way; some Common Mynahs are strutting about the lawn, "a solitary Kite is wheeling overhead and a solitary Jungle "Crow is sitting in a Chil tree " some way off, both waiting "for the dog's food to be brought out. In the Acacias by "the water is sitting a Pigmy Collared Owlet, unnoticed by "the birds some of which are quite close. Were it the Jungle "Barred Owlet which by the way one hears not far off across "the Khud by the servant's quarters, what a difference there "would be! As it is, I expect the bathing to stop any minute "and the mobbing to begin. The Jungle Owlet is very fierce "and powerful for its size, it is the largest of the three Little

"Owls we get and goes about a great deal by day. The "Pigmy tackles birds as well as insects, but I fancy, prefers "the latter. No sign of the Scops, but I expect there is "one fairly close."

"As I turn towards the house I notice two pairs of "Tailor-birds trying to outcry my pair in the aviary; what "a wonderful loud noise these little birds can make. There "are other birds in the fig and bourgainvillea over the "aviary, chiefly White-eyes and Bulbuls (one pair Red-"vented among them), but the Tailor-birds get noticed by "ear. My pair in the aviary have been captured over eight-"een months, and have made a great effort to sew together "two fig leaves, about the only two they could sew together "on the few miserable branches I've trained into the aviary "from the outside. I've now put in a tub of hydrangea; had "they a decent fig tree inside, I believe they would be as "happy as their free relatives."

"In the verandah I turn to have a look out and see "a few of the lovely Wire-tailed Swallows and myriads of "Swifts, which almost brush my face as they visit their nests "in the verandah. Then a flock of Short-billed Minivets fly "by, one lovely cock and six or seven yellow ones, not often "seen at this time of the year (early July) here, though they "have bred in the compound. Then just as I sat down for "tea, facing the door, some birds came to investigate some "mould on the footpath where potting operations had been "carried out, two Bush-chats, which were hunted away by a "hen Brown-backed Indian Robin, the first I have seen actu-"ally in the station though they have been getting closer in "recent years.'

"Not a bad little one hundred yards bird stroll, cover-"ing twenty minutes or so; in fact it includes all I've seen "here, bar Brahminy Mynahs, Indian Pied Bush-Chats (*P.* "*maura*), Himalayan Streaked Laughing-Thrush, Scops "Dove, Rufous-backed, and Bay-backed Shrikes and "Purple Sun-bird; all of which I have seen in the compound "since."

"I think you will agree that my compound "is a real bird paradise; I've left a lot of jungle bits, and "there's cultivation and water. It is not really so much the "variety as the quantity that is so fascinating. Go in any "direction, there are birds, yet the house is barely fifty yards "from the road except on one side."

I found the above narrative so charming, the scenes almost rose before me as I read, that I felt "B.N." readers must share my pleasure—this must be my apology for the liberty taken with a private letter.—Ed.

◆

My Aviaries and Birds.

By Laurence Pullar, F.Z.S.

[We are requested to state that the writer of the following notes is 11½ years old—we wish him progress and success in the cult of aviculture. Ed].

My aviaries were erected three years ago, but since then numerous alterations have been made, so I will write about them as they are now, not as they were at first. My birds have been a source of unfailing interest to me and although the breeding results have not been very good I have hopes of better luck.

No. 1 (16ft. x 6ft.) contains a pair of Tawny Owls.

No. 2 (16ft x 12ft.) here are housed one pair Rosella Parrakeets, 3 pairs Green and 2 pairs Yellow Budgerigars, a Grey-headed Lovebird and an Amazon Parrot.

No 3 (16ft x 11½ft.) is intended as an extension of No. 2 and at present contains a pair each of Stock and Turtle Doves.

No 4 (6ft. x 5ft.) contains a couple of Jackdaws.

No 5 (11½ft. x 6ft.) is given up to four Jacobin Pigeons, and a pair of Turtle Doves.

No. 6 (11½ft. x 6ft.) is occupied by four Fantail Pigeons.

No. 7 (14ft. x 11ft.) contains one pair of Wild Duck, but as it possesses a small pond two feet deep at centre, I think of putting in a pair of Teal.

No. 8 (16½ft. x 9½ft) is occupied by: 3 Red-billed Weavers, 2 Rufous-necked Weavers, 1 White and 3 Grey Java Sparrows, 4 Cutthroats, 3 pairs of Turtle and 1 pair of Zebra Doves, and a pair of Canary x Goldfinch hybrids. I am about to increase the occupants of this aviary by pairs of Java and Ruddy-backed Doves, and Californian Quail.

No. 9 (9½ft. x 7ft.) is given up to a pair of Guinea-fowl.

No. 10 (9½ft. x 8ft.) is occupied by five Golden Pheasants.

All the above aviaries are seven feet high and unheated, and, excepting the Parrakeets, all the birds are outside all the year round. In the winter the Parrakeets occupy a heated aviary indoors.

As I write this my pair of Canary x Goldfinch hybrids have a nest in a box bush, which contains several eggs, but I do not know if they will be fertile.

Last year my Java Sparrows reared two young ones which unfortunately died during the winter. A White and a Grey Java Sparrow, however, mated, nested, and successfully reared two young crosses. The Red-billed Weavers built a nest and deposited therein one egg, but soon deserted.

My Turtle Doves breed all the year round, and I have had to reduce their numbers by giving a lot to friends.

The Budgerigars would not use the husks, but dropped their eggs from the trees in the aviary and, of course, they were all broken.

My Golden Pheasants laid six eggs, which were put under a hen, and five young Pheasants were reared; these now occupy aviary No. 10.

The Rufous-necked Weavers constructed two nests but did not lay.

I hope these rough notes will not be smiled at by senior aviculturists, but as my birds have given me so much pleasure I thought a few notes about them might interest some readers of "Bird Notes."

◆

The Season's Results.

By Herbert Bright.

The nesting results during this season have provided many disappointments, much interest, and there has been a sufficient element of success to save me having to write failure. The various episodes, even those not carried to a successful conclusion, having been full of interest in illuminating, to me, many phases of bird-life. As the most pleasing, I will give a list of the young fully reared first.

12 Long-tailed Grassfinches (*Poephila acuticauda*), ten of these are now in adult plumage; there were four broods of three each.
3 Ruficauda Finches (*Bathilda ruficauda*).
2 Masked Grassfinches (*Poephila personata*).

1 Cherry Finch (*Aidemosyne modesta*).
3 Diamond Sparrows (*Steganopleura guttata*).
6 Cuban Finches (*Phonipara canora*).
2 Masked Doves (*Oena capensis*).
3 Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*).
3 Red Mountain Doves (*Geotrygon montana*).
4 Viele Doves (*Leptoptila jamaicensis*).
2 Brush Bronze-wing Doves (*Phaps elegans*).
3 Bib Finch (*Spermestes nana*) x Bronze-wing Mannikin (*S. cucullata*).

ORANGE-HEADED BULLFINCHES (*Pyrrhula erythrocephala*). I put this pair out in May, and they commenced nest-building almost immediately, choosing as a site the stout branch of an apple tree growing against the back wall. Here they deposited some coarse twigs and later added rootlets, but pulled it to pieces several times and certainly did not appear very keen about it, for they gradually took less interest in it, though they used to go and sit near the place. The nest was about four feet from the ground and was never lined or completed.

The cock then moulted a few feathers over the beak and head, and I was very interested to see whether they would be the same greenish-yellow colour as before or more orange; the feathers came again just as before, but he seemed in much better form and began to sing to the hen, who up to now had made all the music.

This went on for some weeks; then one evening I saw the hen having a furious tussle with a rather stout apple twig, which she eventually managed to break off, carrying it to the top of a tall privet bush followed by the cock, both making a great fuss. She left it there, though it nearly fell down, and went for another piece, which after a lot of trouble she secured and deposited in the same place as the first. She then looked about for some more convenient material, being followed everywhere by the cock, who did not assist in any other way. That evening she constructed a rough foundation at the top of the privet in the most exposed place in the aviary, and close to the top wire-netting. By next morning they had added a quantity of finer material (rootlets of different kinds, which I had provided) and the hen was sitting in the rough nest, shaping it round to her liking.

They next proceeded to line it with light flax cut into short lengths, and I got my man to climb on the top to see what it looked like—he said the inside was beautifully shaped, just like a piece of hollowed-out wood. The cock simply flew about with the hen, but did not assist in nest construction in any way, though he was very attentive and would feed her when she would allow him. She then began sitting in the nest but inspection proved that my hopes were not yet realised. I was afraid of cats and rain, so got my man to fix a square of glass over the nest when he went up. It was impossible to climb up often, so we waited a week and then inspection revealed that the nest was much deeper, not so easy to look into, that it contained two or more eggs, and that the hen was sitting closely. She was completely hidden from view except for her tail. The cock did not assist in incubation at all, but he was very attentive to the hen, often going to feed her and keeping near her. When she came off morning and evening, she used to "go" for him if he did not feed her at once. They both now became very tame and the cock used to fly over directly the door was opened for any tit-bit that was offered, barely giving one time to get inside. He would take any fresh greenfood from the hand. He also took some ants' "eggs" at this time and I also saw him catch some small flies, but generally they took more privet-buds than anything else, though nothing in the shape of greenfood seemed unpopular. The hen continued to closely incubate the eggs, and, as far as I could see, hatched out and fed for about four days; then on the fifth day she came off and did not go back, so I got up and had a look—in the nest lay one egg, which contained a dead chick, but there was no trace of the young ones. The egg was rather large, but similar to that of the English Bullfinch, though paler in colour.

They made no further attempt to nest. Shortly afterwards both went into the moult, which they have now (Oct. 7), just about completed, and I am very pleased to say that the cock might now be almost called a Red-headed Bullfinch. His head and neck are now a golden-orange colour, which in some lights looks quite red; his breast has also the same orange shade, but is much less intense than the head. The change in the hen is very slight, and they take very little notice of each other now

GENERAL. As regards the other birds, though they did not succeed in rearing anything, many good attempts were made: Lavender, Quail, Parrot, and Melba Finches; Yellow-rumped and Tricolour Mannikins; Siberian Bullfinches, etc. all nested, laid, and mostly hatched out, but did not rear. Young of Bicheno's and Ruficauda Finches were drowned during heavy thunder rains.

Indigo Buntings (*Cyanospiza cyanea*) built two nests and deposited clutches in each, but failed to hatch out.

Pileated Finches (*Coryphospingus pileatus*) nested and hatched out, but failed to rear.

Hair-crested Buntings (*Melophus melanicterus*) nested but did not lay.

Masked Doves (*Oena capensis*): Besides rearing the two given in list, they nested twice afterwards, hatching out one young one each time, but though both lived to be fully fledged and one left the nest, neither reached the stage of fending for themselves. The two young which were successfully reared are now slowly passing through the moult.

Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia tranquilla*): These nested several times and reared several young, which always die on leaving the nest.

My Aurora Finch (*Pytelia phoenicoptera*) has become almost white or greyish-white. The flights are almost quite white, and the tail is partly white and red.

Euler's Finches, Desert Trumpeter Bullfinches, and Yellow-throated Sparrows have not made any attempt to nest with me this year.

The most pleasing features of the season have been the Grassfinches, with comparatively late nests.

◆

Breeding of the Occipital Blue-Pie.

By Maurice Amsler, M.B., F.Z.S.

My luck was certainly in, when I was able to obtain a pair of this species in full breeding condition right in the midst of the season.

[A coloured plate and notes of this species appeared in "Bird Notes" for November, 1912.—Ed.].

I have never kept large predatory birds and my new acquisition heralded their advent at Eton with loud and raucous cries. I was relieved to find them amiable; the cock allowed me to handle him and place a copper ring on one leg; possibly he may have looked upon it as a sort of marriage ceremony; it had, however, a more practical meaning, viz.: to enable one to distinguish the two birds more readily.

Books tell us that the female has a *much* more powerful bill. I cannot see any such difference in size; the colour, however, is quite distinct, being coral-red in the male and orange in the female.

They had already made an attempt at breeding in a large cage with their previous owner, so I made all necessary preparation for a renewal of the effort to reproduce their kind. The aviary I was able to give them is of quite modest proportions, some 18ft. long by 3 ft. wide and 7ft. high; it has a shelter at one end with a partly glazed front. In the shelter I prepared a beautiful nesting site of wire netting and broom branches, nicely hidden on every side, except on that facing the glass front of the shelter. Here they would nest and I could inspect whenever I pleased. The birds, however, refused to be subject to such scrutiny as later events revealed.

In the course of a few days I noticed the cock feeding his mate, and I took notice of the favoured foods as a possible help if any young should be hatched.

On June 2nd, I found some twigs of privet at the bottom of my nest; in the meantime Mr. B. T. Stewart, their late owner, had sent me a basket in which the birds had laid while in his possession; this I had hung up securely at the back of the shelter, above five feet from the ground.

No more building took place, as I thought, for a few days, and I feared they would carry matters no further, but they were busy all the time, they resented my inquisitiveness, deserted my "beautiful" nesting-site, and transferred the scene of their operations to the basket in the more secluded position. Here they first put in a foundation of thick sticks, then followed a quantity of twigs of yellow broom, laid very cleverly in a circular arrangement, forming a solid cup, which was back of the shelter, about five feet from the ground.

Building operations occupied a full week, the hen spending her nights in the nest, the cock roosting close by. On June 10th, 11th, and 14th, three eggs were laid, incubation began on the 13th, and on the 29th one chick was hatched, another on the following day, the third egg disappearing during incubation.

The hen carefully brooded her precious chicks and for many days would not allow the male a peep at them. She accepted the scores of mealworms he brought, and promptly transferred them to her nestlings. All food was torn up, swallowed, and regurgitated.

On July 3rd both chicks showed feather tracts and were about equal in size. The next day there was but one chick in the nest and he was quite twice as large as on the previous day (my notes say "Has he swallowed his brother?"). Apparently the dietary was insufficient and the parents tore up one nestling to feed the other. Acting upon this conclusion I gave less mealworms and supplied sparrows, frogs, and large earthworms and all went well. All the foods were dealt with entirely by the male, he swallowed the requisite amount and a little later he transferred it to the hen 10-15 minutes usually passing before it was given to the nestling; by that time it was doubtless partly digested and in a very assimilable state, and the youngster throve apace.

July 10.—It resembled a huge grey slug, quills well grown, but eyes still closed.

July 12.—It was strikingly like a porcupine; General colour grey; quills black and 2-3 inches long; eyes open; bill flat, and horn coloured; size, a little larger than a Missel Thrush. It was about this date that the male parent was first allowed to feed the chick.

July 14.—Body feathers of the chick well grown and of a rusty grey colour; quills bursting, white patch on head well marked and commencing at the base of the bill, not at the occiput as in the adult. Very soon, however, dark feathers appeared on the forehead, leaving this occipital patch very similar to that of his parents. The tail was a mere stump of quills; bill flesh-pink.

July 20.—The young bird took his first survey of the world as he sat on the edge of the nest, and soon he was stretching his wings so far as the extent of the aviary permitted.

In connection with the rearing of the young bird I noticed the following details. The provider was the male, and a busy time he had of it. After he was allowed to feed the chick, he would first satisfy the young bird, next the hen, then make provision for the next meal. His procedure consisted of a number of *caches*, and if any of these were at all exposed, the food was covered up with moss or leaves—none of these *caches* or larders were forgotten. Any attempt to interfere with or too closely inspect their precious youngster caused the parent birds to mob me at once and the din they made while doing so was terrible indeed.

The young bird left the nest when three weeks old and was then very suggestive of a young Magpie. Bill and legs flesh-colour; head and bib grey-black, the latter considerably smaller than in the parents; back blue-black; secondaries tipped with white; tail two inches long and white; breast and under parts dirty white.

Sometimes the young bird misses his footing in flying to a perch and finds himself hanging upside down, and he so remains howling pitifully like a small child; the frenzied parents dance around swelling the noise which is truly *infernal.*

At four weeks the youngster began to feed, and on Aug. 23rd I caught him up and caged him to prevent any interference with his parents' further nesting operations—he began at once to squawk for his parents, but soon recognised that he must forage for himself. Small earth-worms provided a ready solace for his loneliness and a few captive mealworms, imprisoned under a watch-glass in the midst of his soft food, quickly taught him to pick up food that was not in motion.

The young bird is now quite as large as his parents but looks juvenile owing to his short tail (6 inches). In colour he is still duller than the adult, the indigo-blue only being really well developed in the wings; there is none in the tail, which is still white with one or two black marks; breast and abdomen have become pure white; the occipital patch still extends much more forward than in the old birds, and the bill and legs are still flesh-coloured.

The old birds exhibited no emotion at the loss of their offspring. They nested again towards the end of July, and on August 1st there were two eggs in the nest, but the next day both had disappeared, and no third egg was laid.

They again laid three eggs in mid-August and hatched out two chicks, which at the age of seventeen days I took to hand-rear—although they fed well, I lost them both; they developed a disease which I do not recognise—the mouth, throat and tongue were covered with a white membrane, and they had great difficulty in swallowing and breathing, hence their death.

[We have just definitely ascertained that the above species was successfully reared in Lord Lilford's aviaries, both last year and this; we hope to give details later.—Ed.].

◆

Correspondence.

NESTING OF QUAIL FINCHES (*Ortygospiza polyzona*).

Sir,—I really can tell you very little about these as I am away so much. They nested in the grass and I thought it was an Avadavat's nest · only two eggs were laid, both of which hatched out, the young living for about seven days, when they were found dead some distance from the nest, they were just beginning to feather.

They at once went to nest again with almost similar results.

Again they went to nest during the wet weather, but I regret to say the hen took a chill and died. I have since procured a hen Black-faced Quail Finch, but the cock bird will have nothing to do with her.

Brooklea, Downs, Luton, 23/10/'15. T. HEBB.

THE SEASON,—1915.

Sir,—I consider it has been a disappointing season and doubt if the following are of any interest:—

YOUNG REARED TO MATURITY:—

Orchard Finches (*Phrygilus fruiticeti*)—4, Occipital Blue-Pies (*Urocissa occipitalis*)—1 (2 died at 3 weeks).

Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*)—40.

Lesser Saffron Finches (*Sycalis minor*)—2.

Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*)—2.

Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californica*)—3 (22 hatched, 13 of which were incubated artificially).

LAID, BUT DID NOT HATCH

Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*)—about 40 eggs, all of which contained a fully formed dead chick.

Painted Quail (*Excalfactoria chinensis*) eggs disappeared.

Harlequin Quail (*Coturnix delegorguei*).

Orange-headed Ground-Thrushes (*Geocichla citrina*)—Nest built in April, no egg laid until September, when hen was in full moult and did not sit.

Flame-shouldered Troupial (*Agelaeus humeralis*) did not sit steadily.

BUILT BUT DID NOT LAY—

African White-eye (*Zosterops virens*)—probably two males.

Gold-fronted Fruitsuckers (*Chloropsis aurifrons*)—These have in the past laid three times and hatched out twice.

Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phoenicotis*).

Blue-breasted Waxbill (*Estrilda angolensis*).

Grey Waxbills (*Estrilda cinerea*).

British and Siberian Bullfinches, and a species of Finch-Sparrow (? species).

Eton, 26/10/'15. M. AMSLER.

◆

Birds of the Jhelum District and an Ornithological Diary from the Punjab.

BY H. WHISTLER, I.P., M.B.O.U.

(Continued from page 294).

December 20.—I went into Hissar for a day's Bustard Hawking.

The meet was an interesting sight; for in addition to the Hawks belonging to my host and myself there were some the property of a native Police Officer, who was also joining in our sport. The three native professional Falconers had with them several helpers, and the various Camel Sowars and Syces were all prepared to lend a hand in carrying the Hawks, of which there were a goodly selection. The majority were Peregrine Falcons, but we also had three Sakers (*Falco cherrug*); and having plenty of men had brought also a tiercel Peregrine and a Barbary Falcon in case any Partridges were found in likely places.

Arrived at the haunt of the Bustards we mounted our ponies and spreading out in a very long line—horse and camel and foot, to say nothing of a Bullocktonga !—we advanced across country. We soon found ourselves in the middle of a large flight of Short-eared Owls (*Asio accipitrinus*) which sprung out of the grass or from under bushes on every side. These delayed us for a short time while we flew a couple of Hawks at them and were rewarded with one high mounting flight.

We then proceeded to the spot where a party of 6 Honbara Bustard (*Honbara macqueeni*) had been reported. This was in a large level plain of dry partly-grazed grass studded thickly in parts with thorn bushes; and here and there a patch of thicker vegetation marked a depression, where rain water stands for a longer time than on the surrounding levels. It did not take long to find and flush the quarry, and two Sakers were slipped in turn, each bringing its bird down with a very short flight.

We then were surprised to find a pack of some 20 Bustard; and while one Hawk again killed with practically no flight at all, another gave us a splendid gallop for some two miles until the Bustard took cover in a dense patch of grass and thorn, and was utterly lost.

Returning to our men we then found some of the other Bustards which had been marked down, and I flew a new Saker of mine, which had only been caught on the 26th November (as recorded in the diary of that date). It had the quarry down two or three times, but each time the latter broke free and the Hawk returned to the charge. It was a fine sight to see the Bustard settle and face the Hawk with ruff and wings spread like a Turkey cock; but the Saker dashed manfully in and finally pulled it down for good, while I dismounted and ran up, holding the Bustard's wings while the Hawk quickly tore open the jugular vein and killed the bird; it was a very fine heavy male and a satisfactory reward for the 23 days training.

Our luck then changed, for one of the Sakers on being flown again, killed a Honbara but suddenly took fright and flew away, leaving the dead quarry. Although we saw and called it up close many times during the afternoon it would not come down to the lure and eventually had to be abandoned. This misadventure combined with the rising of a strong wind made us give up for the day and go home, well pleased with our bag of 5 Honbara.

December 23.—Happening to look out of the bungalow towards a stand on which were tied two Lugger Falcons, I was much amused to see a wild Kite (*Milvus govinda*) calmly sitting, resting between the two Hawks; they did not seem to object at all, and the visitor departed at his own leisure.

A party of Sociable Lapwings noted.

Common Starlings were noted about in small numbers during the month. Rose-coloured Pastors have also been seen, but they were much less common at Sirsa than in Hissar.

December 24.—Marched out to Otu, stopping on the way at the jheel where we had shot on the 18th instant; there was a very marked difference in the number of ducks about, as they had evidently departed *en masse* after our shoot for some other locality. Fantail-Snipe were however plentiful. Of Waders I saw six or seven Curlew, rather more Black-winged Stilts, and a few Redshanks, Marsh Sandpipers, and Stints. Herons were plentiful. Two or three Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), one White Stork, some Black-necked Storks (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*), and Sarus, Common, and Demoiselle Cranes were noted. Blue-throats were common in the patches of rushes.

On the open country we were treated by a wild Merlin (*Æsalon regulus*) to a pretty flight at a Lark, ending in a kill, but the Little Falcon lost the fruits of its labours, for as it started to plume the quarry under a bush, it was surprised by an Eagle (probably *Aquila vindhiana*) who dropped out of the sky, and as far as one could see, secured the Lark and bolted it.

Some 20 Short-eared Owls flushed from a patch of dry grass. Three or four *Hirundo rustica* and a Kestrel and a Cream-coloured Courser seen.

25th December.—Marched from Otu to Ranian, hawking on the way for Honbara Bustard, of which we found a good number in some very sandy fields of growing grass. These birds had apparently mostly arrived only recently, as on two or three occasions the place had been searched in hope of Bustard, and only a very small number found.

Several flocks of Imperial Sandgrouse (*Pterocles arenaria*) and Common Sandgrouse (*Pteroclurus exustus*) met with.

A few individuals of Stoliezka's Bush-Chat (*Pratincola macrorhyncha*) were noted—this is the only neighbourhood where I have ever met with the species.

Some Short-eared Owls, and a few Kestrels and Sociable Lapwings seen: also several odd birds and a flight of *Hirundo rustica*.

December 26.—At Ranian; more Stoliezka's Bush-Chat seen.

A Black or Cinereous Vulture (*Vultur monachus*) was found sitting in a field near a village.

Short-toed Larks (*Calandrella, sp.?*) are now common in flocks.

One or two Kestrels and Sociable Lapwings and several Long-legged Buzzards (*Buteo ferox*) met with—the country here is in character eminently suited to all three species, being sandy, open and rather barren in character, with more bushes than trees. Tracks of a Great Indian Bustard (*Eupodtis edwardsi*) met with. I picked up an Eagle's casting, which contained Honbara feathers.

(*To be concluded*).

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Breeding of the Melba Finch.

(Pytelia melba).

BY H. WILLFORD.

Some few years ago I was fortunate enough to secure a cock Melba Finch through the kindness of one of our members, but alas! try as I might to get a mate for it, none was forthcoming; so after keeping him for about two years, I then disposed of him, and within a month I was offered and bought a hen, which just shows the cussedness of things, for now I found a male equally unprocurable; however, this was of small moment, for the hen soon succumbed, and thus ended my first experience with, what to my mind is, one of the most exquisitely coloured of all the foreign Finches.

Coloured figures of *P. melba* and *afra* appeared in Vol. IV., N.S. of "Bird Notes" (page 195), also notes on these species.—ED.

During the winter of 1914 two more pairs came into my possession, but all four birds were in very poor plumage, so I kept them indoors till about May. Both the cock birds were excellent songsters, and would sing against each other day or night; in the latter case, of course, only when provided with a light; their song was always modulated but very musical. In the spring of this year I secured a third pair—both very fine birds, but soon after had the misfortune to lose one of the hens of the former pairs.

In due course (about the end of May) the two remaining pairs were turned out; one into my old wilderness aviary and the other into what is known as the studio aviary. Both of these aviaries are very roomy and have large shelters, the latter being rooms under the studio. I find the birds do not make a great deal of use of the shelters, as they prefer to use the natural cover, of which in both aviaries there is ample, the result of several years' development of the plant-life of the aviaries.

We may dispose of the pair in the studio aviary by stating that they made numerous attempts to raise a family, but never succeeded in getting their progeny over more than four or five days.

The pair in the wilderness aviary had better luck; presumably the conditions prevailing in their aviary provided a greater abundance of insect life. They built a very flimsy nest, of the usual domed grassfinch-type. The first egg was laid on June 7th, followed by another on the 8th, but on the 9th some other bird in search of nesting material had, apparently, helped itself to a portion of the Melba's nest, and two broken eggs were found beneath the nest.

Some days later I found a second nest in a small box bush—this time of more substantial construction—containing two eggs partly incubated, the entrance of the nest being partly filled up with black feathers from a bantam hen, which was rearing a brood of Pheasants in the same aviary. All went well and on June 28th, I could feel two tiny chicks in the nest, though it was impossible to see them owing to the aforementioned feathers blocking the entrance hole. Both birds took part in incubation, and also in the brooding of the young; the cock bird usually being on duty in the mornings and the hen in the afternoons. The weather up to this time had been perfect, and my hopes of rearing the first Melbas were very high, when, on the night of the 10th, it rained in torrents. So I took no chances, but went out to the dark aviary at *three a.m.*, and placed a piece of tarpaulin over the bush wherein the nest was built, and left them to their fate. As soon as it was light I crept out to the aviary, in much fear and trembling, I confess, as to what I should find, and was much relieved to see that all was well with them. On July 14th one young bird left the nest, but the second was never seen. The young bird could not fly very well for the first few days, but was apparently quite a strong "brancher." He spent most of his time perched on a small fir-tree, from whence he got a good general view of his surroundings.

"Master Melba," as we named him, was covered with down and was very black skinned as a callow-fledgeling, but on leaving the nest had a light grey breast, with practically no lacing, a darker head, greenish wings and tail, with no rufous anywhere—and was still showing patches of down on the head. On August 3rd, he was seen feeding at the seed tray. Ultimately "Master Melba" turned out to be a hen and now (November 24th) is not distinguishable from an adult.

On July 20th the same pair commenced another nest, which three days later contained a clutch of three eggs. A young bird left the nest in August, but disappeared three days later.

On August 4th the adult cock somehow escaped and was flying about and disporting amid the neighbouring trees, most of the day, but was fortunately recaptured before dark.

At least a dozen nests were built and clutches laid. The clutches never numbered more than three eggs, more generally only two.

The old birds all look very fit and should do better next year, as the breeding pair were practically newly imported when they reached me in the spring.

I fancy they fed their young one on a good deal of insect food, which they were able to obtain for themselves in the large aviary in which they lived.

The young bird had the same way of screwing its head round and opening wide its mouth, when asking for food, as the Zebra and other allied Finches.

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Robin and Cuckoo.

By Mrs. Ellen L. Beadnell.

It is said that the commonest foster-parents to the young of the Cuckoo are—and probably in the order mentioned—the Meadow-Pipit, Pied Wagtail, Reed-Warbler, Hedge-Sparrow, and the Robin Redbreast, and as the following brief account concerns the upbringing of a young Cuckoo by the last-mentioned of these birds I venture to hope it may interest some of the readers of this periodical.

On the 12th and 13th of July the attention of my husband and myself was attracted by a continuous and unusually noisy crying of nestling birds emanating from a hedge bordering our orchard. As the place in the hedge whence the noise proceeded abutted against a large hen-house on the orchard side, and overhung a steep bank, affording no foothold whatever on the other side, after one or two perfunctory attempts we gave up trying to find the nest. On the evening of the 15th a piercing bird-cry came from the top of a pear tree immediately outside our sitting-room window, a cry which for shrillness and discord could only be equalled by that not infrequently emitted by the village schoolboy when armed with that horrible instrument of torture, the slate and slate pencil. The cry was persisted in for so long that eventually we went out, curious to learn what kind of animal could have the effrontery to indulge in it. After much searching, for the light was growing dim, we saw, perched up amid the fruit and foliage, what appeared to be a young Hawk. It flew away on discovering that we were watching it and returned no more that evening. But next morning soon after the hour of four the horrible noise recommenced and continued without appreciable break until breakfast-time, reminding us for all the world of the Cicadas at the Cape. After breakfast we again went out to obtain, if possible, a closer view of our unmusical visitor. A wood-shed stands close to the pear-tree and there, on the roof, stood the young bird in the very act of being fed by a Robin, and clearly labelled as a young Cuckoo. It stayed on the roof of the shed for most of the day crying, crying incessantly for food, whilst the harassed little foster-mother sought far and near for the wherewithal to satisfy it. As soon as the Robin came in sight the Cuckoo crouched forward, opened its cavernous mouth to its widest extent, thereby disclosing a lurid scarlet throat, and flapped its wings in a most extraordinary manner. The Robin never by any chance flew straight to its monster baby, but, having flitted in an apparently aimless fashion amongst the surrounding fruit-trees for a little while, would make a lightning-like dart towards the Cuckoo on the roof. So much did the baby preponderate in size over its foster-mother that the former had to crouch lower and yet lower, whilst the diminutive Redbreast, standing on tip-toe, craned its little neck to the utmost. Then the beaks would touch and the juicy caterpillar or the wriggling worm left the mother's beak and disappeared down the capacious maw of the foster-child. A Cuckoo's appetite would appear to be insatiable, for almost before the toothsome morsel had left its throat it was screaming again for food and putting as much pathetic hunger into its cries as the child-beggars of the East when they whine for "painies."

During the whole of the 16th, 17th, and 18th of July the cries and the feeding of the gluttonous little parasite continued and we began to consider what steps we should have to take to prevent the now obviously worn-out little Robin from dying of exhaustion. So we placed crumbs on a wooden table in the vicinity of the wood-shed and before half-an-hour had elapsed she was transporting the ready-made store of food to the hungry Cuckoo. Time after time she came to the hoard on the table despite our standing close by, but never once did she fly straight back to the Cuckoo on the shed. Invariably she took a zig-zag course, now on the starboard tack through the orchard, and now on the port tack through the hawthorn and blackberry of the hedge, until eventually she came to her moorings on the roof of the shed. And all the while the never-satisfied, greedy monster, with which she, all unwitting, had been tricked, kept up its raucous cry.

On the morning of the 19th a most singular incident happened. The Cuckoo tried to short-circuit its maternal commissary of subsistence by making a direct raid on the food-store lying on the table. The foster-bird became greatly perturbed on discovering what her wayward child had done; scolding its warning, it flew on to the table, its feathers erect and flaming breast heaving up and down with anxiety, and literally drove the Cuckoo back to the shed—apparently fearless for her own welfare she yet could not bring herself to allow of entrusting her precious charge to our tender mercies. A few days after this we noticed that the rapidly developing young bird was growing fierce in its manner towards its foster-mother, making what appeared to us to be threatening movements when she approached it; the mother, in her turn, appeared worried and puzzled, and went about in manifest terror of her "wisibly swellin'" offspring. And now the Cuckoo initiated trips of its own up and down the orchard and its cries we thanked heaven—ceased for hours at a time, though towards evening it once more resumed its accustomed billet on the roof of the shed and clamorously voiced its demands. It was particularly noticeable that whenever it flew over the fowls feeding in the orchard they—especially the hens with a brood of chickens—rushed about in great concern, sounding their warning cries to all and sundry. Naturalists are now almost universally agreed that the general colouring and manner of flight has been brought about by natural selection for the definite purpose—if so teleological an expression may be permitted—of intimidating those smaller species of birds whose nests are the potential homes of the Cuckoo's offspring. It would not only be an embarrassment to the female Cuckoo if she, having found a suitable nest, were to be attacked by the lawful owners, but in addition it could subject the whole Cuckoo species with parasitic habits (for some of the foreign Cuckoos have not lost the parental love and care of offspring) to the danger of extinction. On the other hand the advantage to the parasitic species of an easy and unmolested access to the nest and of the deposit of the egg within it unwitnessed by the legal owners is sufficiently obvious. This the female is enabled to do by her partner hovering Hawk-fashion over the nest and monopolising the attention of the owners, either by paralysing them with fright or inducing them to "mob" and chase him away from the precincts. A murderer before his eyes are open, as a sparrow-hawk in disguise he is shot by man and mobbed and hooted by his kith and kin, all his life a discontented, ill-conditioned, passionate, gluttonous, and universally hated parasite, his very appellation a term of opprobrium, truly this unfortunate bird's lot is not an envious one. But, *revenons à notre oisean* On the morning of the 21st we were, as usual awakened very early by the cuckoo's cries, but after breakfast there was peace. About lunch-time the bird was observed in in a large oak tree at one end of the orchard and that was the last we, and also apparently, the foster-mother saw of it.

All the afternoon, and until nightfall did the little robin-redbreast call to its ungrateful errant child but with no result, and the next morning its plaintive, pathetic monotone was still to be heard.

She then appeared to resign herself to the loss, for she returned to her former routine of hunting up worms in in the orchard, and waiting for crumbs in front of the window, and once more as the slanting shafts of light lingered over the tops of the pear trees her cheery, rippling notes would bid us good-night.

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Breeding of the Lesser Saffron Finch.

(Sycalis minor).

BY MAURICE AMSLER, M.B., F.Z.S.

The following account has been arranged from Dr. Amsler's rough notes, as he had already written an article for another Journal. His phraseology has been adhered to, and of course the article appears under his name.—ED.].

This species, the rarest in this country of the genus *Sycalis*, has not, so far as I am aware, been previously bred in captivity in the British Isles. And this is my excuse for describing the nesting operations of a pair of birds, whose brood is as easy to rear as a nest of Canaries.

[No excuse is needed for the recording of any success, an apology should rather be tendered for failing to do so. The mistaken view, "not sufficiently noteworthy" has been, and is, responsible for the loss to aviculture of many interesting records, and often is probably only a subterfuge to cover slackness and laziness.—ED].

Three other species of Saffron Finch are known to aviculture, viz.:

Saffron Finch (*Sycalis flaveola*).
Pelzeln's Saffron Finch (*S.pelzelni*).
Yellowish Finch (*S. arvensis*).

The first-named has been kept for many years and has been bred in many aviaries. Pelzeln's I have bred, procuring my stock from my fellow member Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, who was the first aviculturist to breed this species. The Yellowish Finch is not common, but it has been bred in one or two aviaries, the initial success being gained by Mr. D. Seth-Smith.

The Common Saffron Finch bears a very pugnacious reputation and I have given it a wide berth, and personally consider it has little beyond its rich colouration to recommend it So, when I was offered a pair of "Lesser Saffrons" last autumn it sounded so attractive, I was tempted and fell, and in due course they arrived and fully met my expectations.

Description: In size they about equal a Linnet, which the hen bird closely resembles in colour; the cock, however, is much more shapely being quite a "reachy" bird, reminding one of a Yorkshire Canary. He is long, slim, and elegant, with yellow head and underparts, and olive-green back and flights.

They spent the winter in cages and were not particularly interesting under these conditions. Towards the end of January I turned them into the shelter of one of my aviaries, but withheld access to the outer flight; a month later I allowed them to revel amid the growing bushes and green sprouting grass. Their delight was unbounded, and their demeanour full of interest. The cock did not mean to be done out of his courting season, nor the joys and experiences of married life—soon all was in trim for the rearing of a family; the principal features of which I give as under:

The cock courted his mate with outspread wings and distended throat, following her in all her movements. His song was a very pleasing trill, very soft, and sometimes rising so high in the scale as to be almost inaudible, entirely lacking the disagreeable "scroopy" notes, which "jar" one's ears when listening to the common Saffron Finch.

In April I first noticed them carrying nesting material, and on May 23rd I discovered a huge circular nest—a foot in diameter—high up among the twiggy branches in the shelter. It was outwardly constructed of straw and wood wool, but internally there was a cup, about three inches diameter, neatly and solidly woven of roots and other fibres; it contained three eggs, no larger than those of a Zebra Finch, but of a very pale grey-blue colour, and spotted especially at the blunt end with reddish-brown. Owing to the instability of the straw foundation the young hatched some days later were thrown out.

June 30.—The nest had been mended and contained one egg. No more were added.

July 12.—Hen sitting on four eggs, one of which may have been the original, and probably addled, egg.

The appearances of the birds caused me to conclude that the male incubates during the day and the hen for the other period.

July 22.—Three chicks made their appearance: dark brown covered with down of the same colour—gape bright orange.

July 30.—Hen parent picked up dead, and in my dismay I was near to taking the young to hand-rear, but fortunately decided to try what the cock bird would do alone—he proved an excellent parent and fully reared two young birds; the third disappeared. He was wanting in one respect, however; he did not brood the young at all.

August 2.—Two young birds left the nest, being eleven days old—again there had nearly been a disaster, for the nest, which I had lately propped up, I found hanging in an almost inverted position. The young birds appeared very vigorous, one being quite strong on the wing. For the first night I put them in a deep box in the shelter, in which the male could feed them, but out of which they were not then strong enough to fly—here the night, which was wet and stormy, was spent in safety, and the following morning they were allowed to take their chance, and all went well.

Description of young at fourteen days: Back, head and flights dark brown, with slight suggestion of olive, and dark buff tips to feathers of mantle and tertiaries. Throat and chest yellowish-white with dark vertical streakings; abdomen bright yellow; irides and beak dark brown; feet flesh-colour.

As regards the food the young were reared upon, I can only say that while the male never touched mealworms at other times, he was quite eager for them while feeding his young; at the same time live ants' "eggs" and "soft food" were absolutely ignored. I believe he also took hemp and maw seed, and green wheat in the ear, besides the ordinary stock millet and canary seed.

Young at age of six weeks: By this time both young had lengthened out and were much the same shape as their father the streaking had practically disappeared, but both still showed a distinct tendency to yellowness on abdomen and chest. I fear therefore both are males, and that unless others come to hand, it will be impossible to perpetuate what is, in my opinion, a very attractive and inoffensive hard-bill. I fancy that one or both are beginning to "tune up" as I have on several occasions heard a song which was vaguely reminiscent of the old male's love song.

Both are now independant and take little notice of their father.

My Aviaries and Birds.

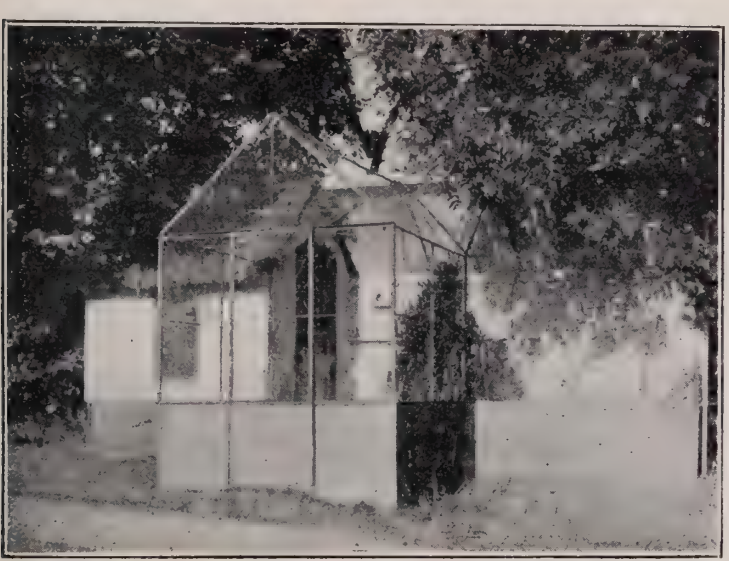
By Ernest E. Bentley.

When I commenced aviculture I thought a wooden structure was the most desirable, but I have since altered my mind and consider a steel construction to be the best. The illustration is from a photograph of one so constructed.

To commence with, the frame-work is all made and set up in a fitter's shop, and may be very light as indicated in the photo. The main uprights are eighteen inches longer and sunk into the ground to that extent, being finished off with a small base-plate. The plinth or dado of the aviary is galvanized sheet iron, which is let into the ground nine inches as a protection against mice. At the back of the aviary, at the top and bottom, is an iron channel, which runs the whole length (18 ft.), just wide enough to receive one-inch thick tongued and grooved boarding, the boards are just slipped in along the whole of the back; it is therefore quite solid and draught-proof.

After due consideration I decided to try reinforced cement for the shelter, so when the whole aviary was fully wired I got a plasterer to put a rough coat on the wire (the netting was tautly stretched), and when once it was set and quite hard I had it finished with a white drying cement and sand; this was quite a success and gives a dead-white appearance which makes a very pleasing contrast with the thatched roof. The inside of the shelter is plastered on the wire, the roof being thatched on the outside, and the whole is very snug and warm for the birds.

I am of the opinion that an aviary constructed as above, although perhaps costing a little more than a wooden one, is less costly in the end as it requires very little upkeep. The base and steelwork requires occasional painting, it is rigid, light and has its advantages when viewing the birds.



Mr. E. E. Bentley's Aviary.

The aviary is T-shaped on plan, 12 ft. long and 6ft. wide; the shelter is 6 ft. square and 8 ft. to eaves, with a half door to opening; the roof is half-pitch. I had a few difficulties, as the ground is on a slope to the south; the aviary faces west.

With regard to the occupants of the aviary nearly all are foreign Finches, viz.: Bengalese; Zebra Finches; Orange-cheeked, Grey, and Golden-breasted Waxbills; Avadavats; Cordon Bleus; Ribbon, and Spice Finches; Weavers; Whydahs; Black-headed Mannikins, etc. Breeding results have not been very satisfactory; the Ribbon Finches have fully reared a brood of five young birds, and the Californian Quail (a gift from one of our members) laid over seventy eggs, and then unfortunately died, without attempting to incubate any of them.

Part of the aviary is sodded, and it contains the remains of a portion of a hedge on a small bank, and there is a large box tree near the front (can be seen in photo); a branch of ash tree extends through the back of the aviary, and undoubtedly the birds like natural branches of this sort better than perches.

In aviculture one must be prepared for disappointments as well as successes; the latter I wish to all who are interested in the pursuit of aviculture.

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The Breeding of the Chinese Greenfinch.

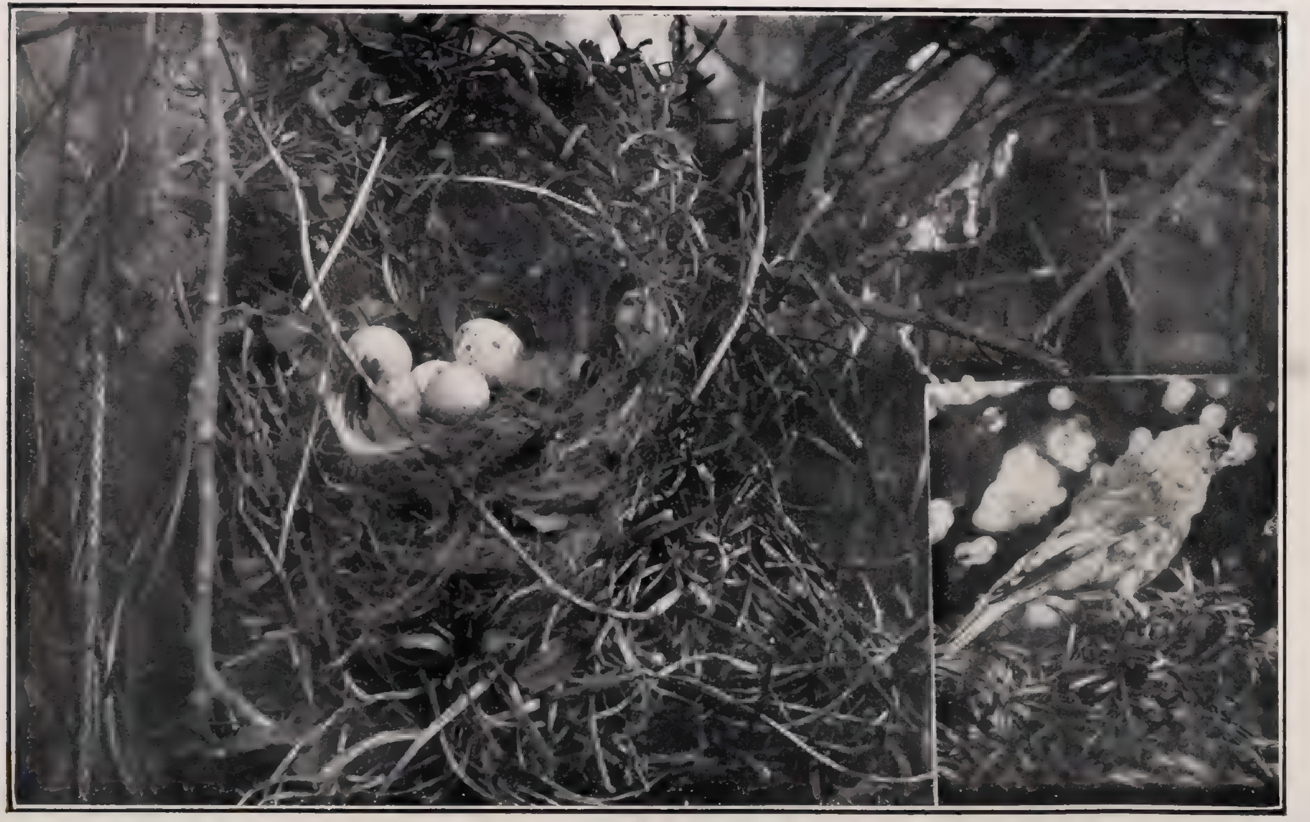
By Wm. Shore Baily.

Particulars of the breeding of my Chinese Greenfinches (*Chloris sinica*) have appeared in another journal, but I thought that, as accounts of my other breeding successes of the season have appeared in "B.N.," it was only fair that some details of this event should also appear. if the Editor thinks otherwise there is the W.P.B.

[While a portion of our members read both Journals, the major portion do not. We must consider all, and even for those who read both the same event, differently told, should not prove monotonous—one can't have too much of a good thing.—Ed.].

The Chinese Greenfinch is a handsome bird, about the same size as our indigenous Goldfinch. Its general colouration is similar to that of our Greenfinch, but the head is ashy-grey as in our Chaffinch. Black and yellow wing-bars, which are very conspicuous when the bird is in flight, give it a very bright and attractive appearance. The rump also is yellowish, as also are the margins of the tail feathers, the latter having black tips. The female is similar but much duller in colour than the cock.

This spring I turned a pair of these birds into one of my outdoor aviaries, which is thickly planted with laurel and privet, and contained amongst other birds three species



Nest and Eggs of Chinese Greenfinch, with Bird inset. *Photo by W. Shore Baily.*

of Weavers. For a time all went well, but, as the breeding season advanced the large Hypthantornine Weavers began to bully the Greenfinches considerably. However, at the beginning of June I noticed the hen carrying feathers and the cock chasing her. On June 4th I noticed she had torn the roof out of a Rufous-necked Weaver's nest,* and had built herself a cup-shaped home therein, in which she deposited five eggs (greenish-white, very lightly marked with brown spots and splashes, principally at the thick end). The hen incubated very steadily, while her mate stood "on guard" on a neighbouring branch. Such a happy state of affairs did not continue for long, for one morning, after incubation had proceeded for about five days, I found the cock bird in a bad way - one leg badly damaged, and a great bare, raw patch on his breast—evidently the cock Rufous-neck Weaver had joined battle with him and the weaker bird had suffered. The hen, however, continued to incubate steadily, but just before the eggs were due to hatch came the end, nest and eggs being found on the ground—the Weaver was again the probable culprit.

A few days later the cock having made a fair recovery; I saw that they were again prospecting for a nesting-site. Their choice fell on an outlying branch of a laurel bush, where they constructed a neat, cup-shaped nest, almost entirely of grey and white goat's hair. On this occasion but two eggs were laid; incubation commenced on June 15th, and on the 30th two chicks were hatched out. The callow young were covered with white down and grew apace, for by July 7th they were beginning to open their eyes, and feather tracts were apparent. Both parents fed them assiduously with regurgitated seed, and bread and milk. I never saw the parents taking insects, and no mealworms were supplied. On the 13th one young bird left the nest, and the other the next day.

The young birds were very clever at concealing themselves and I scarcely saw them during the first few days out of the nest. A heavy thunderstorm killed one of them but the other grew up into a nice bird.

I should say that the hen alone incubates, the cock keeping guard in the vicinity.

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* See Plate.

The nestling plumage is pearly-grey, striated on the head back and throat with a darker shade of the same colour; the breast and underparts were unmarked; black and yellow bars adorned the wings, and a yellow patch the rump.

The element of tragedy is very strong in this family's history, for I unfortunately killed the surviving young bird with an unlucky blow of the net when catching up, and the cock has since disappeared, presumably a victim of one of the Weavers.

The young bird at the time of his death was just four months old, and practically indistinguishable from his mother.

I shall hope for better luck next year, as I have still a true pair of this species left.

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Birds in and about the Station.

By Major G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 88).

The Indian Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) probably attracts more attention than any other bird we get, with its long white streamers and melodious call. It usually arrives about mid-April, the cock first, and remains till the end of October, the young birds staying the longest. I cannot agree with Oates that the notes are harsh, the alarm note certainly is so, but then most alarm notes are, even those of beautiful songsters such as the Shamah and the Grey-winged Ouzel. The loud melodious whistle consists of a fair number of notes, very frequently uttered, as often as not on the wing.

Nearly all our visitors are fully adult birds, if one may judge by the cocks. I have never seen more than two Red-tailed cocks about in any one season, while there must be at least thirty white-tailed ones. I have generally three pairs nesting in my compound alone each year. The Red-tailed cocks up here have always been bachelors, due, I suppose, to a paucity of hens; it appears to be no uncommon thing for red-tailed cocks to rear families in other places.

I fancy that it is only the older and hardier birds that venture any height into the hills. In common with my friend and fellow-member, Mr. D. Dewar, I have often seen hens fighting for the cocks, but of recent years with us the cocks have outnumbered the hens and now the cocks fight for the hens. It is only of recent years that I have seen adult red-tailed cocks. I might mention that I have never seen adult cocks in the plains at Lahore and Kohat.

The nest should be searched for near, not necessarily over water, where there is a tangle of overhanging branches with a clear space beneath. If there is a stoutish branch hanging lower down than the others with any small twig springing upwards from it near the tip, there will you find the nest, some distance below the tangle. A solitary stem from the ground to the tangle is sometimes used and sometimes the nest is in a regular tree, but I look on the first as a typical site. In any case it is on a solitary twig, either thorny as the rose or medlar, or slippery as the willow, and always there is a clear space immediately round and above it. There is no attempt and no need for concealment except from human enemies; its position guarantees safety. One's first nest is ridiculously hard to see; it is too obvious; one looks for something more difficult. One's second nest hits one in the eye. Both sexes sit, and both are very conspicuous on the nest. The cock is more often seen on the nest, as the hen is rather shy and slips off, the cock, if anywhere in the vicinity, taking her place at once and sitting very tight. I have several times snapped the cock sitting at three or four yards off, all failures by the way. The nest is a cup made of fine fibre covered with cobweb worked round the main branch and the off-shoot twig. Some have quite a solid base. Most look rather fragile but are in reality quite strong. The nest is very small for the size of the bird. The clutch is usually four, sometimes three; even three nearly fledged birds distinctly overcrowd the nest. The breeding season is from May to August. I have found eggs in the latter month.

I have several times attempted to have young birds reared for me, not having had time to attempt the feat myself, but all have ended in failure. The native our way is not naturally a bird lover and is too lazy for such a job. It is all right as long as the old birds are feeding their caged offspring. Their keeper will tell you the young are taking mealworms and yet he has not the foresight to decrease the mealworms given him so as to back up his lie. I have kept wild-caught youngsters for six weeks or so until I had to leave them. At first I had great difficulty in getting them to take mealworms or maggots or even grasshoppers, but after a couple of " stuffings " they recognised the mealworm as a most succulent morsel and discovered that good things are not of necessity only caught on the wing. Still, I could not get them meated off, they would take a little soft food but did not thrive, and again and again I had to fall back on increased live food. Raw meat I could not get them to touch in any form, though I persisted in my efforts with all sorts of luxurious tit-bits cut in tempting shapes; dryish or juicy, livery ("gudgy" we used to call it) or meaty, white or red, amongst cut-up mealworms or cunningly hung up, it was equally ignored. They did not always eject what was stuffed into them, but that was the total amount taken by them. After about three weeks I let them loose in what used to be my Finch aviary, along with some White-throated Fantails which were in a similar case. They had this aviary to themselves and very charming they were to watch. Grasshoppers and Dragon-flies were procurable in abundance and the birds throve but made no progress as to becoming meated off. Paradise Flycatchers are very fond of butterflies even of the indigestible looking kinds. Some of the larger kinds give wild birds quite a good flight, but of course in the aviary they had little chance. They were usually held by one wing close to the body in the beak until by free banging on a branch, and by the fluttering of the insect itself the wing broke off. The falling insect was immediately swooped upon and seized and the process continued with another wing. Occasionally the bird would help the process with a foot, but not at all in the manner of a Shrike or a Tit.

It was a pretty sight to watch the birds bathing, swoop after swoop through the water at a pretty smart pace with an occasional rest on a branch to fluff themselves out and preen their feathers. The water-dish was about 18 inches in diameter but quite shallow, two inches deep at most, yet the birds never seemed to touch the bottom. The Fantails sometimes indulged in swoops through, but the swoops at the best were of a very fluttery nature and as a rule the bird's preferred a fluttering sort of swim through from the edge, one foot on the bottom sort of swim. The Fantails were not above sitting on the edge and having an ordinary splash bath but never seemed to bathe standing in the water.

I regret not having let go these Flycatchers on leaving, but my man had abundance of live food at his disposal and I had good reason to expect their doing all right with him; however they did die. I fancy one would have a better chance with hand-reared birds, as Mr. Stewart-Baker had some for several years. He seems to have found them easy to cater for, chicken's liver being apparently a keenly-desired dainty, but from his account (which I have not by me at present) they seemed to get a great deal of live food. As far as I can remember he only mentions meat in addition to live food. I tried various mixtures of soft food, all insect of course, with various proportions of fresh hard-boiled egg, but with no success. I have found egg of the greatest use in tempting difficult birds on to soft food. If I see my way to the necessary leisure, or can get a real bird-loving man, I shall attempt hand-rearing again. Failing that I shall try an adult cock caught either on arrival or just before their departure. It is unfortunate that I do not see my way to a winter-caught bird, as such birds in my experience are far the most satisfactory.

(*To be continued*).

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Editorial.

A RETROSPECT: This is always important, but especially so when civilisation is engaged in a vital struggle for liberty against educated barbarism; but this colossal struggle in which many of our members (many more than is apparent by our Roll of Honour) are engaged. is only alluded to as indicating the momentous time we have been passing through and live in. Some have given their lives others are maimed, and there will most probably be many more casualties among our members before the end comes. Letters have reached us from the various fronts showing that even in the midst of such strenuous times and scenes they have not forgotten their connection with us, have even sent us notes of birds met with, in or near the firing line, notes of doings in their aviaries which have reached them from home, and have urged those compelled to remain at home to keep things going, and to send them avicultural news as opportunity offers.

The secretary's report will appear elsewhere in this issue and these few lines will merely refer to the volume just completed. That it is worthy of its predecessors will, we think, be the opinion of all—in merit we venture to assert, that both as to interest of illustration and text, also in the variety of its contents, it will compare favourably with any that have gone before; moreover, the principles for which we stand mutual help and encouragement in the keeping and breeding of all species of birds have been fully maintained, and the year's work as to progress and practical usefulness has been fully up to past years. True, we have had less coloured plates than usual, but we are convinced all will agree in the wisdom of this; our half-tone illustrations, however, have been very numerous and of more than usual interest. Such a result amid these troublous times may surely be taken as a happy augury for the future.

Quite a number of species have been bred for the first time, and two successes with species, which had been bred previously but not recorded, must be looked upon as notable events of the year, viz.: the breeding of Bearded Tits and Occipital Blue-Pies, and we must congratulate Drs. Lovell-Keays and Amsler upon these successes and their interesting records concerning them. Other noteworthy successes are: Mr. Willford's with the Melba Finch, and Mr. Shore-Baily's with Weavers and Whydahs. A full list of breeding successes has already appeared.

To all our contributors who have assisted in the compiling of such a volume, we tender our grateful thanks: there is, however, a tendency on the part of some to consider that their name appears too frequently; to such there can be but one rejoinder, viz.: those that have many birds *should have much to write about.* We owe our best thanks to Messrs. Willford, Shore-Baily, Low, and Dawson-Smith, for the use of many beautiful and interesting photographs.

Without unduly trespassing on the Secretary's province we may state that, in spite of troubled times, our gains of new members slightly exceed our losses to date: a most satisfactory result.

As regards the coming volume, a few remarks as to the outlook will appear in January "Bird Notes."

BREEDING RECORDS: Since additions to our list were last published, the following have been bred, or were omitted from last list.

SPECIES.

PSITTACI.
  Conure, Brown-eared (*Conurus ocularis*).
STRIGIDAE
  Owl. Jardine's Pigmy (*Glaucidium jardinii*).
CORVIDAE.
  Blue-Pie. Occipital (*Urocissa occipitalis*).
PANURIDAE
  Bearded Tit (*Panurus biarmicus*).
PLOCEIDAE
  Finch. Melba (*Pytelia melba*).
  Whydah. White-winged (*Urobrachya albonotata*).
  Weaver. Taha (*Pyromelana taha*).
FRINGILLIDAE.
  Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*).
  Little Saffron Finch (*Sycalis minor*).
  Chinese Greenfinch (*Chloris sinica*).
  Black Seed-finch (*Melopyrrha nigra*).
  Orchard Finch (*Phrygilus fruticeti*).

HYBRIDS.

FRINGILLIDAE.
  Bunting Indigo × Nonpareil (*Cyanospiza cyanea* × *C. ciris*).
  Linnet × Ribbon Finch (*Lionota cannabina* × *Amadina fasciata*)
  If any reader is cognisant of others, details are requested.

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Correspondence.

LATE NESTING OF FIREFINCHES.

Sir,—It may be of interest to some, if I state that two young Firefinches left the nest this morning, and are nice strong birds. To me it is of more than usual interest, as their female parent died ten days ago and the male bird has reared them unassisted by mealworms or other live-food of any kind. I may also state that the aviary is an outdoor one, though very sheltered, and the back of kitchen chimney forms the back wall of shelter-shed. Having got thus far, I am hoping they may reach maturity

Oxford 6/11/'15. G. E. HAGGIE.

BIRDS IN THE FIRING-LINE.

Sir,—I am sending a few stray notes on the bird-life out here, which I thought, might prove interesting to readers of "B.N."

Sept. 15.—Magpies appear very common in this neighbourhood (Belgium). They are usually seen in small parties of two to five. Grey Wagtails are more often met with than the Pied species. Reed Buntings and also Yellow Buntings are quite common, especially the former. Other Finches (with the exception of Tree-, and House-Sparrows) are conspicuous by their absence. House Swallows and Sand Martins are still with us. Of the many English birds of the country-side, I have seen Blackbirds, Song Thrushes; Blue and Great Tits, Robins, Hedge Accentors and occasionally a Missel Thrush or two. But, nowhere are they in such numbers as one sees at home, except Starlings and House Sparrows, and these swarm.

Oct 10.—About twelve miles further south. Here there are numbers of Jays as well as Magpies; the former, however, are very wild. I have seen several Common Wrens in the undergrowth round the pond, where the horses are watered. I have also heard the Green Woodpecker. Both here and further north I noticed a species of Lark or Pipit which I was unable to recognise; they were quite common, going about in parties of about twenty or so. It is about the size of a Skylark but more stoutly built; the general colour is ashy-grey, with some black or dark markings; the tail is dark and there is a crest on the head, black or nearly so. They were rather difficult to approach, so a more detailed description is not possible

Oct. 17.—Saw several pairs of Hooded Crows, also some Moorhens on a pond.

This, I think, comprises the birds I have met with up to the present. Hoping that this will prove of some interest, and trusting that "B.N." is still flourishing. B. HAMILTON SCOTT, Lieut. R.F.A.

NESTING OF THE BLACK-TAILED HAWFINCH.

Sir,—Last year, my pair of *Eophona melanura*, built two nests and laid two clutches (three eggs each time), but only one chick resulted, which survived but three days.

This year I had to keep the cock bird alone all the spring, as an injury caused an abscess in the region of the eye, and I feared it would lose the sight of it, but after about three months he recovered, and I then put him and his mate into an aviary with some Greenfinches and Chaffinches.

They soon settled down, and a nice cup-shaped nest was constructed in half a coco-nut husk, hay and feathers being the materials used; only one egg was laid, which they did not incubate. Then she started laying another clutch (four eggs this time). On August 25th there was one dead and one live baby in the nest, the dead one I removed and they fed the other as soon as I supplied wasps' grubs. Unfortunately, later in the day the young one was either thrown or carried out inadvertently on its parent's claws, being quite dead when I found it. However, on August 26th, another of the eggs hatched out, and the chick appeared to be doing well. On the 30th, it was strong and vigorous and beginning to show dark and light patches. On September 2nd, its eyes were opened and the feather tracts showing. It was still doing well on the 6th, and seemed big and strong and feathering well. The nestling plumage promised to resemble that of its mother. It was very hearty and taking 9—12 wasps' grubs at a go—so the old birds must have a busy time when they have a brood of several youngsters to attend to.

To my great disappointment on the 11th the young bird died, it had made good progress up to the 9th, when, I fancy, owing to the parent birds being well in the moult, they began to neglect it, neither feeding it so freely nor brooding it at night and the nights were cold—thus were my high hopes shattered, for as it had lived for fifteen days, I certainly had expectations of it being fully reared; but it was not to be! I was so grieved when I found it dead, as it was quite a big bird and getting well feathered

In plumage it exactly resembled its female parent, the beak being blue-grey with a yellowish tip.

The old birds had access to hemp, sunflower, canary and general aviary seed mixture, soft-food, ripe fruit, mealworms and wasps' grubs; but the young bird appeared to be fed mostly on the latter. I hope I may have better luck with them next season.

Catford Sept. 15, 1915. (Miss) ALFREDA B. SMYTH.

[We apologise for the delay in the appearance of the above, but in a time of stress it got mislaid on the Editor's desk.—ED.]

THE SEASON'S RESULTS.

SIR,—If you think the enclosed breeding results are worth putting among odd notes will you do so?

1 pair Gouldian Finches—17 young fully reared.
1 pair Long-tailed Grassfinches—8 young fully reared.
1 pair Diamond Doves—2 young fully reared.
1 pair Brush Bronze-wing Doves—2 young fully reared.
Indigo × Nonpareil Buntings—2 young fully reared.
A hen Grey Singing Finch nested twice, but the eggs were infertile.

She refused to pair with a cock Goldfinch, which was in the aviary.

I think the Gouldians' record is remarkable—the same hen fully reared *thirteen* young last year. I only keep a few birds.

Ashmansworth, 25/11/'15. BERNARD C. THOMASSET.

[The above must almost constitute, if it is not an actual record for a single pair of Gouldian Finches, it once more proves the truth of how fortunate one is when one happens to secure a *breeding* pair! We are sure it would prove of interest to our readers if Mr. Thomasset would kindly describe his aviary and give full details of treatment and also the doings of the Gouldian Finches during both seasons. We congratulate him on his success.—Ed.]

BREEDING OF THE BEARDED REEDLING IN CAPTIVITY.

Sir,—In reply to your letter it is quite correct that I have bred the Bearded Tit here on several occasions, and a good many of them. It is also true that the Aviary here is a large one, measuring about 46 yards long by about 15 yards wide, We made an artificial pond and planted reeds and rushes, &c. making it as natural as possible, *but*, the birds are *entirely* dependent on most regular attendance, which they have had, and when there are young ones, have to be fed *several* times during the day, because, although the place has been made as natural as possible, the little amount of natural food would be no good at all, as though it is a large place *many* other birds are kept and many have bred. Whatever may be the decision of those in authority, I shall, I am afraid, always be conceited enough to consider that I was the first to breed the Bearded Tit, *and in captivity.*

The following birds have bred in the same place in addition to Bearded Tits: Ruffs and Reeves, Pekin Nightingales, Foreign Doves, Goldfinches, Redpolls, Bib Finches, Silverbilis, Waxbills, Zebra Finches (in an inner enclosure), Siskins.

Tring, December 11th, 1915. RICHARDSON CARR.

[The above is Mr. Carr's courteous reply to certain specific questions which we put to him, and certainly is., as he claims, " *breeding in captivity*' 'according to present rules No medal can be awarded for this event, as the initial success occurred, we believe, more than two years ago.—Ed.]

Birds of the Jhelum District and an Ornithological Diary from the Punjab.

By H. Whistler, I.P., M.B.O.U.

(Continued from page 322).

December 27.—When shooting my way back from Ranian to Otu, I observed a nest on the top of a tall Kikur tree, from which an Eagle flew disturbed by the noise of our guns. I sent a man up to investigate and he reported that the large stick nest, lined with coarse grass, contained 3 eggs. As it was necessary to ascertain the exact species of Eagle I sent the party on and laid up in the neighbourhood of the nest; it was not long before the female who had been soaring high in the air with the male and other Eagles descended and settled in the empty nest I had removed the eggs. As I approached the tree, however, she left the nest and perched on the end of a neighbouring bough, whence I shot her. The bird proved to be a fine Indian Tawny Eagle (*Aquila vindhiana*). The three eggs were incubated. This is the only occasion on which I have found more than two eggs in a nest of this species.

A large number of Short-eared Owls flushed in some grassy fields; one that was shot at and sent away wounded was at once captured by a couple of Eagles. Eagles of two or three kinds were most numerous in this part, and I saw a couple that appeared to be an immature and adult Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*).

Visited a small stretch of water in the irrigation dam near Otu; here were a mixed selection of water birds—about a dozen Flamingoes, a Pelican, Herons, Black-necked Storks, Ruddy Sheldrakes, Demoiselle Cranes, Mallard, Shovellers; Greenshanks, and a flock of Little Stints (*Tringa minuta*). The nest of Pallas' Fishing Eagle, from which I took 3 eggs on 20th November, now contained a single egg. The Fishing Eagles were much worried by a pair of Lugger Falcons (*Falco jugger*) which evidently intended nesting in the neighbourhood of the eyrie. During the couple of hours that I spent there, there was incessant friction between the Eagles and the Falcons,—the latter continually attacking as the former passed by, and treating me to a wonderful exhibition of stooping at a great height in the air; so fierce were these stoops that the Eagles attacked had frequently to turn in the air to ward off the blows with their talons.

Blue-throats common, and a few *Hirundo rustica* noted.

December 28th.—From Otu to Hissar a Black Vulture (*Vultur monachus*) noted, and some King Vultures (*Otogyps calvus*).

December 29.—The Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) is common on the grass farm at Hissar, where two or three may be seen in view at once, soaring or hovering like Kestrels. They are apparently insect feeders, and do not worry trained Hawks.

About a dozen Warty-headed Ibis (*Inocotis papillosus*) noted; also 3 or 4 *Hirundo rustica* and a Wire-tailed Swallow (*H. smithii*).

December 30.—At Hissar a single Rain Quail (*Coturnix coromandelica*) shot, and another also on January 1st; these can only be regarded as stragglers here at this time of year. A Wryneck *Iynx torquilla*) seen; one was noted also a few days ago, but I forgot to record the date. Two or three *Hirundo rustica* and Striated Swallow seen. A small party of Duck on a small jheel proved to be Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, and Garganey.

December 31.—Hissar. Many Short-eared Owls, about 15 Honbara Bustard, some Sociable Lapwings (*Chettusia gregaria*) and a Cinereous Vulture (*Vultur monachus*) observed in the course of a day's hawking.

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Page 268, line 8 "course" should be *coarse*.
,, 274; line 26; "*Pocphila gouldian*" should read *Poephila gouldiae*.
,, 277 line 191 "*Trachloptcrum*" should read *Trochalopterum*.
,, 278, bottom line; "Ameboar" should read "*Amoebae*."
,, 279, line 30; "*Nayroca*" should read *Nyroca*.
,, 294, line 5, "*Chethisia*" should read *Chettusia*.
,, 313; line 7; "Viole" should read *Violet*.

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JANUARY, 1915.

The Foreign Bird Club.

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FILLMER, H. R., (*Founder*), Brendon, 22, Harrington Road, Brighton.

◆

ACTON, G. H., Bytham, Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading. (February, 1914).

ADAMS, A. W., 118, Northampton Road, Market Harborough. (May, 1912).

ALDERSON, Miss R., Park House, Worksop. (March, 1909).

ALLAN, J. W., Bondgate, Alnwick. (April, 1911).

ALMOND, The Rev. F., Dormant. (February, 1906).

ALT, Mrs. M., 28, Melrose Gardens, Hammersmith, London, W. (April, 1914).

AMES, Mrs. HOBART, North Easton, Massachusetts, U.S.A. (March, 1913).

AMSLER, Dr. MAURICE, Eton Court House, High Street, Eton, Windsor. (March, 1909).

ANDERSON, J. H., 20, Hoghton Street, Southport. (February, 1914).

ANDREWS, F. J., Gordon House, Woodbridge. (December, 1911).

ANNINGSON, Mrs., Walt-ham-sal, Barton Road, Cambridge. (December, 1901).

APPLEBY, K. A., Springfield, Egerton Road, Lahore, Punjab, India. (October, 1910).

ARMSTEIN, MARK, 30, Grand Parade, Cork. (March, 1906).

ARMSTRONG, CHARLES, The Grove, Cambridge. (August, 1913).

ARNOTT, PETER, Grant Street, Alloa. (December, 1913).

ARRIGHI, L. J., Harrison View, Watson Crescent, Edinburgh. (March, 1908).

ARTHUR, C. P., Hillcrest, Melksham. (February, 1913).

ATTWELL, HAROLD E., Cassia Grove, Halfway Tree, P.O., Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I. (March, 1910).

AUSTIN, W. E., Wandsworth Public Libraries, Allfarthing Lane, Wandsworth, London, S.W. (April, 1909).

BADDELEY, A., 21, Derby Street, Hulme, Manchester. (July, 1912).

BAILY, W. SHORE, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts. (June, 1909).

BAINBRIDGE, Mrs., Elfordleigh, Plymton, Devon. (March, 1914).

BAINBRIDGE, W. A., Hazlewood, Thorpe, Chertsey. (September, 1912).

BAKER, Miss M. E., The Elms, Mount Sorrel, Loughborough. (September, 1902).

BAKER, Mrs. H. G., Brookfields House, Swinton, Yorks. (December, 1914).

BAMFORD, WM., The Coppice, Werneth, Oldham. (June, 1904).

BAMPFYLDE, The Hon. Mrs., Whitechapel Manor, South Molton, North Devon. (July, 1911).

Barlow-Massicks, Mrs. C., The Mount, Rotherham. (November, 1911).

Barnaby, Miss Alison, Oak Lodge, Bitterne, Southampton. (August, 1912).

Baxby, William, 7, Chesterfield Road, Dronfield, Sheffield. (June, 1910).

Beaty, S., Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Manchester. (March, 1908).

Beazor, Rev. J. T. A. Lovell, The Nest, Bicclescombe Park, Ilfracombe. (April, 1911).

Beebe, C. W., Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoological Park, New York City, U.S.A. (July, 1911).

Bentley, Ernest, E., St. Mary's Lodge, Louth. (March, 1914).

Bliss, H. E., Church Street, Middleburg, Cape Colony, S. Africa. (January, 1903).

Botting, H., 17, Eversfield Road, Reigate. (December, 1908).

Bourke, Hon. Mrs. Gwendolen, Hitcham Vale, Taplow, Maidenhead, and 75, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, W. (December, 1909).

Bousfield, Miss M., Avon Court, Southbourne Road, Bournemouth. (Jan., 1908).

Bowerman, F., 12 Wellington Street, Swindon. September, 1914).

Bowring, Miss Clara, The Holly House, Broadway, Worcestershire. (July, 1914).

Boyd, Miss M., Webbery, Bideford. (February, 1914).

Boyd, Harold, Box 374, Ketowna, Brit. Columbia, Canada. (April, 1903).

Branfoot, B., 41, Cromwell Road, Grimsby. (November, 1912).

Bright, Herbert, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool. (October, 1911).

Brook, E. J., F.Z.S., Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan. (Mar., 1908).

Brown, Mrs. C., Dormant. (May, 1910).

Browning, W. H., 16, Cooper Square, New York, U.S.A. (February, 1910).

Browne, Capt., A. E., Belmont, Murree, Punjab, India. (March, 1912).

Bruce, Miss A., Chevet Park, Wakefield. (March, 1909).

Bufton, Reginald P,, Caerhyn, Llandrindod Wells. (Jan., 1913).

Bull, F. W., Bude, Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey. (June, 1912).

Burnham, John B., President A.G.P. and P. Ass., Trinity Buildings, 111, Broadway, New York, U.S.A. (March, 1913).

Bush, W.,. The County Bor. of Newport School of Art, Clarence Street, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

Camps, H. T. T., F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Ely. Orig. Mem.).

Capern, F., Avenue House, Cotham Park, Bristol. (October, 1907).

Carr., F. J., St. Aidan's, Alnwick. (April, 1914).

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Capern, F., Avenue House, Cotham Park, Bristol. (October, 1907).

Carr., F. J., St. Aidan's, Alnwick. (April, 1914).

Carr, J. T., Blythewood, Deramere Drive, Malone Road ,Belfast. (September, 1912).
Carr, Richardson, Home Farm, Tring, Herts. (June, 1913).
Cartwright, Miss E., Bretton Lodge, Wakefield. (January, 1912).
Chamberlain, C., The Aviary, 20, Perkin Street, Port Elizabeth, Cape Province, S. Africa. (June, 1914).
Chaplin, Mrs. Drummond,. Government House, Salisbury, Rhodesia, (July 1914).
Chaplin, E. W., The Firs, Great Amwell, Ware. (Sept., 1903).
Charles, J., Stone House, Doncaster. (February, 1914).
Charlesworth, Miss Audry, Marnhull Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. (July, 1914).
Chatterton, Mrs., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N. (January. 1915).
Chawner, Miss E. F., Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants. (July, 1910).
Chick, Herbert J., 39a, Radford Road, Nottingham. (March, 1914).
Christie, Mrs. G., Newton House, Elgin. (January, 1913).
Clare, Miss Lydia, The Hollies, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W. (March, 1910).
Clark, W. G., Hummers Knott, Windsor Road, Slough. (January, 1915).
Clarke, S., Inces, Scaynes Hill, Hayward's Heath. (August, 1911).
Clifton, Lord, Dormant. (October, 1905).
Colton, R., 9 Birkendale Road, Sheffield. (February, 1913).
Connell, Mrs. Knatchbull, The Orchard. Brockenhurst, Hants. (July, 1912).
Constable, Rev. W. J., Uppingham. (February, 1912).
Corbet, Sir R. J., Bt., Acton Reynold, Shrewsbury. (April, 1911).
Croker, Chas., E., Burrow Inch, Lower Bourne, Farnham. (Oct., 1911).
Cronkshaw, J., 193, Manchester Street, Accrington. (Nov., 1901).
Cross, R., Northumberland Park, Tottenham, London, N. (Jan., 1914).
Croysdale, Mrs. B., Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames. (January, 1908).
Curry, H. L., Lambolle Lodge, Littlehampton. (July, 1912).
Currie, J., 128, Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh. (August, 1913).
Curzon, J. W., Temperance Hotel, opp. Central Station, Lowestoft. (February, 1912).
Cushny, Charles, c/o. Messrs. Neish, Howell, and Haldane, 47, Watling Street, St. Paul's, E.C. (Orig. Mem).
Darrell, Dr. H. W., Adelaide House, All Saints' Green, Norwich. (September, 1908).
Davidson, Mrs., Yew Tree Cottage, Bitterne, Southampton. (April, 1911).
Davies, Mrs. M. H., Daresbury Hall, near Warrington. (January, 1914).

Dawson-Smith, F., Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, Bucks. (March, 1912).

Dell, C. E., 12, High Street, Harlesden, London, N.W. (January, 1914).

Dennis,, Mrs. Harold, St. Leonard's Park, Horsham. (Jan., 1904).

Dewar, D., I.C.S., F.Z.S., Saharaupar, U.P., India.

Dewar, J. F., 2, St. Patrick's Square, Edinburgh. (Orig. Mem.).

De Yarburg-Bateson, The Hon. Lilla, Heslington, York. (June, 1903).

Ditchfield, F., 37 Nugget Street, Oldham. (April, 1914).

Dobbie, J., Waverley Works, Leith, Edinburgh. (April, 1906).

Dobson, W. B. C., Bindown, Hampton Wick. (April, 1914).

Drummond, Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, Perthshire. (November, 1907).

Dunleath, The Lady, Ballywalter Park, Ballywalter, co. Down. (November, 1901).

Dutton, The Hon. and Rev. Canon, Bibury Vicarage, Fairford, Glos. (May, 1906).

Dyott, R. A., Freeford, Lichfield. (November, 1912).

Earle, J. Hudson, Newgate House, Cottingham, Hull. March, 1914).

Ebrill, Wm., 14, Victoria Terrace, Limerick. (April, 1906).

Eccles, Miss A. S., The Glade, Ditton Hill, Surbiton, Surrey. (Jan., 1912).

Edmunds, W., Coombe Farm, Langton Matravers, Wareham. (Nov., 1909).

Elms, E. F. M., Rosebank Cottage, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey, (June, 1910).

Ezra, A., 110, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London. (Jan., 1911).

Ezra, D., 3, Kyd Street, Calcutta, India. (August, 1912).

Fasey, William, R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbrook, N.E. (Jan., 1903).

Ferrar, B. B., M.D., F.Z.S., Superintendent, the Royal Zoological Society's Gardens, Phœnix Park, Dublin. (December, 1912).

Findeisen, A. G., Hallow Dene, Torquay. (June, 1913).

Firth, W. H., 1, Agnes Road, Northampton. (May, 1913).

Fisher, W. H., The Bush Hotel, Farnham. (May, 1908).

Fisher-Rowe, H. M., St. Leonard's Grange, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (January, 1911).

Flannery, M. J., Barrack Street, Nenagh. (January, 1909).

Flower, Capt., S. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Keedah House, Zoological Gardens, Gizeh, Egypt. (March, 1909).

Flower, Mrs. Stanley, Longfield, Tring, Herts. (July, 1910).

Fockelmann, Herr August, Handels-Tierpark, Hamburg-Grossborstel, Niendorferweg. (December, 1912).

Forster, W. L., Smithfield, Orange Free State, S. Africa. (May, 1914).

Foster, T., Fairlight, Babbacombe, Devon. (March, 1914).

Foster, Miss E. M., 35, High Street, Huntingdon. (January., 1909).

Fowler-Ward, Dr. F., 40, Berners Street, Ipswich. (Oct., 1913).

Freeland, G. Scott, Hill Rise, Quarry Hill, Tonbridge. (July, 1912).

Frost, W. J. C., 13, Fairlawn Avenue, Chiswick Park, London, W. (August, 1913).

Frostick, J., 50, Boundaries Road, Balham, London, S.W. (Dec., 1909).

Fry, J. S., Cobo, Guernsey. (August, 1913).

Galloway, Mrs. E., Fernville, Fortis Green Road, East Finchley, London, N. (January, 1908).

Galloway, P. F. M., Durban, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham, Reading. (November, 1907).

Gardiner, Mrs. Stanley, Bredon House, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge. (January, 1913).

Gerrard, John, M.B.O.U., Worsley, Manchester. (June, 1905).

Gerrard, Miss M., 14, Via Perasto, Lido, Venice, Italy. (June, 1914).

Gloyns, Horace, P., Kew Cottage, Holmesdale Road, Hampton Wick, Kingston-on-Thames. (October, 1912).

Godry, Edouard, LeCoteau, Lantheuil par Creully (Calvados), France. (January, 1912).

Goodacre, Hugh, Ullesthorpe, Lutterworth. (May, 1912).

Goodchild, H., M.B.O.U., 66, Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W. (July, 1903).

Goodchild, J. Clare, Suffolk. (January, 1913).

Goodfellow, W., The Poplars, Kettering. (October, 1908).

Gorringe, The Rev. Reginald, Manston Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. (December, 1902).

Gosse, Dr. Philip, M.B.O.U., Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (April, 1910).

Gott, Mrs. F., Weetwood Garth, Leeds. (November., 1912).

Gourlay, H., (Penshurst, Shortheath, Farnham, Surrey. (November, 1907).

Graham, John, Rainbow Hotel, Kendal, (February, 1911).

Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S. (*Hon. Veterinary Surgeon*), 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, London, W. (May, 1906).

Greenall, Miss Susan, The Manor, Carlton Scroop, Grantham. (May, 1914).

Greeven, Miss M., c.o., Mrs. Green, 41, Clanricarde Gardens, Notting Hill Gate, London, W. (October, 1907).

Grossmith, J. L., The Grange, Bickley, Kent. (January, 1913).

Gurney, G. H., Keswick Hall, Norwich. (June, 1913).

Haggie, G. E., B.A., Bruncombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford. (Feb., 1910).

Hahn, Countess C. V., 192, Walpole Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W. (August, 1910).

Hall, Miss A. F., 26, Adelaide Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W.;

and Denholme, Hayling Island, Havant. (September, 1911).

Hale, Clinton B., Pedrogosa and Laguna, North West Corner, Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A. (April, 1911).

Hansell, Frank, Bank House, Granton Road, Edinburgh. (November, 1911).

Harcourt, The Rt. Hon. Lewis, P.C., 14, Berkeley Square, London, W. (April, 1914).

Harper, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 6, Ashburnham Road, Bedford: (October, 1907).

Harris, Chas., 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, N.E. (April, 1910).

Hartley, Mrs. E. A., Lynchfield, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton. (September, 1907).

Harvey, Lady, Langley Park, Slough. (June, 1908).

Hatchell, D. G., c.o. Parry and Co., Madras, India. (December, 1911).

Hawke, The Hon. M. C., Wighill Park, Tadcaster. (November, 1902).

Hawkins, L. W., Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Original Member).

Hebb, T., Brooklea, The Downs, Luton. (August, 1912).

Henderson, Mrs. W. F., Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (November, 1908).

Henderson, J. Alex., Cassland, Springwell Road, Tonbridge. (August, 1913).

Henstock, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. (March, 1907).

Herbert, Edward Greville, Bombay Burmah Trading, Co., Bangkok, Siam, and The Rectory, Hennington Abbot, St. Ives, Hunts. (January, 1915).

Hetley, Dr. Henry, Beaufort House, 114, Church Road, Norwood, S.E. (January, 1908).

Hewitt, F. W. G., The Old Hall, Weelsby, Grimsby. (April, 1909).

Hincks, Miss E. M., Baron's Down, Dulverton, Somerset. (December, 1904).

Hodkin, Mrs., Sedbergh House, Kew Green, Surrey. (February, 1908).

Hoffmann, R., Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London, S.W. (March, 1912).

Holden, Ralph, A., F.Z.S., 5, John Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C., and Harpenden, Herts. (July, 1911).

Hollins, Miss, Greyfriars, Preston. (February, 1906).

Hollins, Mrs., The Aviaries, Coppice Drive, Harrogate. (May, 1903).

Holmes, Thomas, 46, Aglionby Street, Carlisle. (January, 1911).

Hopkinson, Emilus, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Oxon, South Bank, Bathhurst, Gambia, West Africa. (October, 1901).

Horsbrugh, Major, B. R., Tandridge Priory, Oxted, Surrey. (October, 1909).

Houfton, Miss K., Fountain Dale, Mansfield, Notts. (April, 1914).

Houlton, Charles, Laburnum House, Denton's Green, St. Helens, (November, 1901).

Frank, 54, Thomas Street, Wellingborough. (February, 1902).

Hubbard, Mrs. D. L. (Dormant). (January, 1905).

Hume, James, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).

Humphrys, Russell, Present address unknown. (July, 1902).

Hurndall, Mrs. R., Ditton Hill Lodge, Ditton Hill, Surbiton, Surrey. (April, 1913).

Isaac, Chas., Brockley House, Slough. (March, 1911).

Jamrach, A. E., 180, St. George's Street, London, E. (July, 1909).

Jardine, J., Castle Inilk, Lockerbie, N.B. (August, 1913).

Jenks, H., 54, Ebury Street, London, S.W. (August, 1913).

Johnson, Miss L. Sturton, Orotava House, Hastings. (September, 1910).

Johnson, Major, F., Melrose, Wilbury Road, Hove, Brighton. (August, 1912).

Johnon, H. V., 18 Chambres Road, Southport. (November, 1908)).

Kelson G. Mortimer, Home Cottage, Sunbury-on-Thames. (June, 1913).

Kennedy, Lt., G., c./o. Mrs. Kennedy, 7, Albion Road, Sutton; Surrey. (May, 1908).

Kenworthy, J. M., Meadowcroft, Windemere, (June, 1909).

King, Frank, Dormant. (March, 1909).

King, H. T., 11 Elm Tree Avenue, West Bridgford, Nottingham. (April, 1914).

Kite, E. Bagshot, Haines Hill House, Taunton. (February, 1912).

Knobel, Miss E. Maud, 32, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. (Dec., 1911).

Komyakoff, Alexis, Novinsky Boulevard, 109, Moscow, Russia. Dec., 1912).

Lamb, Mrs., The Limes, Worting, Basingstoke. (March, 1912).

Lamb, E. J., Alverstone, Thetford Road, New Malden,. Surrey. (May, 1906).

Lathbury, Dr. C. J., Ashton Avenue, Dunstable. (February, 1913).

Leach, C. F., Vale Lodge, Leatherhead. (July, 1914).

Lee, Mrs. E. D., Hartwell House, Aylesbury. (September, 1910).

Legh de Legh, Dr. H. Redcar. (April, 1911).

Lilford, The Lord, Lilford Hall, Oundle, Northants. (January, (1914).

Longden, Mrs. D. A. S., 40 Beechwood Road, Uplands, Swansea. February, 1914).

Longdon, Mrs. C. A., Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford. (February, 1909).

Lovell-Keays, Dr. L. F., F.Z.S., Park Lodge, East Hoathly, Halland, Sussex. (March, 1913).

Low, G. E., 14, Royal Terrace East, Kingstown. (May, 1914).

Lowe, A. J. C., Present address unknown. (January, 1912).

Lucas, Miss Emma, Bramblehurst, East Grinstead, Sussex. (Sept., 1913).

Lucas, N. S., M.B., F.Z.S., 19 Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W. (January, 1914).

Lynam, C. C., M.A., Bardswell Road, Oxford. (September, 1913).

Lythgoe, G. W. F., Camlyn, Cromwell Road, Stretford, Manchester.

McCullough, John, Fairy Hill, Cranmore Park, Belfast. (January, 1914).

McDonagh, J. E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C:P:, F:Z:S:, L,L,S,; 4 Wimpole Street, London, W. (January, 1903).

McDonald, Miss, Meadow Bank, Hollington Park, St. Leonards-on-Sea. (April, 1911).

McLaren, The Hon. Mrs. Morrison, Parkfield, Park Lane, Southwick, Brighton. (November, 1906).

Malden, Viscountess Eveline, Great Bookham, Leatherhead. (August, 1909).

Mallett, E. A., M.A., Great Wishford, Salisbury, (September, 1911).

Mannering, R., 117, Elsenham Street, Southfields, Wandsworth, London, S.W. (February, 1912).

Mappin, Stanley, 12, Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London, S.W. (February, 1911).

Marmont, W. B., The Firs, Amberley, Stroud, Glos. (October, 1908).

Marsden, J., Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate. (March, 1914).

Marshall, Mrs., Marrowells, Walton-on-Thames. (April, 1911).

Mason, D., The Maisonette, Broadstairs. (April, 1914).

Master, G. M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov.. 1903).

Maxwell-Jackson, Miss M., Cowhill, Rutland Road, Harrogate. (January, 1913)).

Maxwell C. T., 1, Shardcroft Aven, Herne Hill, S.E. (December, 1908).

Meadows, J. C. W., 19, Cardiff Road, Luton. (February., 1908).

Meakin, H., 16, Shaftesbury Road, Luton. (January, 1904).

Miller, Mrs K. Leslie, (Dormant). (January, 1913).

Millsum, O., 7, Cliftonville Parade, Margate. (July, 1907).

Minchin, Mr., The Zoo, Adelaide, Australia. (July, 1914).

Mitchell, H., Haskells. Lyndhurst, Hants. (September, 1903).

Money, L. G. Chiozza, M.P., The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, London, N. (October, 1910).

Montague, G. R., 63, Croxted Road, Dulwich, S.E. (February, 1909).

Montgomery, W. O., Rubana, Burton Road, Hornsea, Hull. (January, 1913).

Mortimer, Mrs. Wigmore, Holmwood, Dorking. (Original Member).

Mundy, Miss Sybil, Shipley Hall, Derby. (August, 1911).

Murton, Marshall, Osborn Villas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (August, 1913).

Newley, R. A., 24, Stockwell Green, London, S.W. (December, 1902).

Newman, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex.. (July, 1903).

Nicolson, Thos., G., F.Z.S., Glenoe, Walton-on-Thames. (June, 1910).

Oakey, W., 34, High Street, Leicester. (Original Member).

Oberholser, Harry C., 1,444, Fairmont Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (December, 1903).

O'Donnell, O., Hyntle Place, Hintlesham, Ipswich. (August, 1912).

O'Donnell, Major-Gen., H., C.B., D.S.O., Banu, N.W.F:P:, India: (October, 1913).

O'Neil, Arthur, 25, Eldred Street, Carlisle. (January, 1911).

O'Reilly, Nicholas S., 144, Eastern Road, Kent Town, Brighton. (Orig. Member).

Ogg, J. E., The Grove, Cockburnspath, Berwickshire. (February, 1913).

Onslow, The Countess of, Clarendon Park, Guildford. (April, 1913).

Owen, P., 19, 5 Rue Laperouse, Paris, France. (March, 1912).

Page, W. T., F.Z.S., (*Hon. Editor*), Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey. (May, 1905).

Painter, V. Kenyon, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. (November, 1910).

Parkin, Thos., M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U:, Fairseat, High Wickham, Hastings. (May, 1914).

Paterson, Rev. J. Mapletoft, Karachi, Sindh, India. (November, 1908).

Pauwels Robert E., Everberg par Cortenberg, Brabant, Belgium. (September, 1909).

Pennant Lady Edith Douglas, Soham House, Newmarket. (July, 1908).

Percival, W. G., Nanga, Chania Bridge, British East Africa. (Jan., 1915).

Perkins, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Stroud, Gloucestershire. (Feb., 1903).

Perreau, Major, G. A., F.Z.S., 2-4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjab, India. (December, 1903).

Perreau, Mrs. R. A. D., 11, Douglas Crescent, Edinburgh. (September, 1908).

Perring, C. S. R., Claremont Avenue, New Malden, Surrey. (October, 1902).

Phair, H. J., Broad Street, Alresford. (January, 1912).

Pickard, H. K., 298, West End, Lane, Kilburn, London, N.W. (Oct., 1901).

Pickles, W. H., Stonyhurst, Morecambe, Lancs. (May, 1904).

Pike, L. G., F.Z.S., King Barrow, Wareham. (December, 1910).

Pilkington, Lady Kathleen, Chevet Park, Wakefield, (September, 1908).

Pithie, Miss Dorothy, 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth. (September, 1911).

Poltimore, Lady, Poltimore Park, Exeter. (August, 1911).

Pond, Mrs. T., 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. (November, 1902).

Pope, Mrs., Howden, Tiverton, Devon. (February, 1914).

Powell, Miss M. M., Hawthorn House, Oakhill Park, Old Swan, Liverpool. (May, 1914).

Puck, Otto, Darenth Lodge, Chingford, N.E. (May, 1912).

Pullar, Lawrence, H. F., F.Z.S., Dunbarnie Cottage, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire. (October, 1913).

Quincey, R. de Quincey, Inglewood, Chislehurst, Kent. (August, 1910).

Rattigan, G. E., Setley Cottage, Brockenhurst, Hants. (March, 1909).

Raven, W. H., 239, Derby Road, Nottingham. (October, 1909).

Raynor, Rev. G. H., M.A., Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon. (December, 1909).

Read, Mrs. W. H., Church Croft, Weston Park Road, Thames Ditton. (January, 1911).

Reeve, Capt., J. S., Leadenham House, Lincoln. (March, 1908).

Restall, J. A., 82, Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (November, 1903).

Rice, Capt. G., Clayquhat, Blairgowrie. (July, 1902).

Robbins, H., 37, New Oxford Street, London, W. (October, 1908).

Robson, J., 28, Camden Grove, Peckham, S.E. (December, 1909).

Roehl, C., 400, Edgware Road, London, W. (September, 1911).

Rogers, W. T., 21, Priory Villas, New Road, Brentwood. (October, 1907).

Rogerson, Mrs., Fleurville, Cheltenham. (February, 1903).

Roth, Fred, G. R., Sherwood Place, Englewood, N.J., U.S.A. (Nov., 1908).

Rothwell, James, E., 153, Sewell Avenue, Brooklyn, Mass., U.S.A. (February, 1911).

Routh, Col. J. J., 2, Beechworth Villas, Cheltenham. (January, 1912).

Row, C. H., Chapel House, Long Melford ,Suffolk. (December, 1905).

Rumsey, Lacy, 23, Rua de Terpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto, Portugal. (October, 1911).

Ryan, G E. (Bar.-at-law), Hintlesham Hall, Ipswich. (November, 1913).

Ryan, W. J. Norwood, St. John's, Beaufort Road, Kingston-on-Thames. (September, 1913).

Schluter, J. C., Heathwood, 5, Dacres Road, Forest Hill, London, S.E. (April, 1913).

Schuyl, D. G., 12, Toe-Haringvlist, Rotterdam, Holland. (January, 1914).

Scott, B. Hamilton, Hamildean, Ipswich. (July, 1910).

Scott, J. Easton, M.B., Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).

Scott, Mrs. J. Easton, Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).

Scott-Miller, R., Greenoak Hill, Broomhouse, Glasgow. (May, 1913).

Sebag-Montefiore, Mrs., East Cliffe Lodge, Ramsgate. (May, 1914).

Segue, Le Comte De, 45, Avenue d'Jena, Paris, France. (April, 1914).

Shipton, A. J., 71, Cloudesdale Road, Balham, London, S.W. (April, 1913).

Sich, H. L., Corney House, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, W. (June, 1908).

Sidebottom, Mrs. E. Harrop, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Manchester. (February, 1908).

Sills, Arthur, 260, Loughborough Road, Leicester. (January, 1911).

Silver, Allen, 303, High Road, Streatham, London, S.W. (Original Member).

Simpson, R. E., 5, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds. (December, 1907).

Smith-Ryland, Mrs., Barford Hill, Warwick. (April, 1909).

Smith, W. S., 24, Jubilee Street, Luton. (December, 1908).

Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal. (January, 1910).

Smyth, Miss Alfreda, 40, Davenport Road, Catford, London, S.E. (January, 1911).

Snarey, H., 21, Leamington Road, Blackburn. (March, 1911).

Soames, Rev. H. A., M.A., F.L.S., Lyncroft, Bromley, Kent. (Rejoins January, 1914).

Somers, Frank, M.R.C.V.S., 66, Francis Street, Leeds. (January, 1907).

Southcombe, S. L., Highlands, Ash, Martock, Somerset. (September, 1910).

Southey, Miss M. E., The Vicarage, Chiddingly, Halland, Kent. (January, 1915).

Sprankling, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (February, 1908).

Sprawson, Dr. E. C., 68, Southwood Lane, Highgate, London, N. (October, 1913).

Sproston, Mrs., The Elm House, Nantwich. (January, 1911).

Stead, Edgar, Strowan, Christchurch, New Zealand. (September, 1911).

Steavenson, Mrs. Paget, Cross Bank Hill, Hurwood-on-Tees, Darlington. (January, 1915).

Steed, B., 22, North Street, Sudbury, Suffolk. (May, 1914).

Steinschen, W. E., The Bungalow, Contanchey, Guernsey. (February, 1914).

Stephens, A. J., Argyle Road, Ilford. (February, 1914).

Sterckmans, Dr. C. (Dormant). (August, 1910).

Stewart, B. T., Glenhurst, The Crosspaths, Radlett, Herts. (February, 1914).

Stoney, Mrs. Stella, 21, Mount Carmel Chambers, Duke's Lane, Kensington, London, W. (August, 1912).

Storey, Mrs. A., Summer Hill, Tarporley, Cheshire. (November, 1912).

Stott, A. E., 15, East Parade, Leeds. (January, 1915).

Street, E., The Poplars, Oatwoods, Anslow, Burton-on-Trent. (May, 1909).

Strickland, E. A., 16, Alma Road, Windsor. (May, 1912).

Strong, Herbert, The Hollies, Beckenham Lane, Bromley, Kent. (April, 1913).

Suffolk and Berkshire, The Countess of, Charlton Park, Malmesbury. (February, 1909).

Suggitt, R., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (December, 1903).

Suggitt, W. E., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (Jan., 1915).

Sutcliffe, Albert, Fairholme, Welholme Road, Grimsby. (May, 1907).

Swayne, Henry, A., 29, Percy Place, Dublin. (January, 1913).

Swaysland, W., Dormant. (Original Member).

Taintegnies, Baronne Le Clement de, Cleveland, Minehead, Somerset. (August, 1913).

Tavistock, The Marquis of, Woburn Abbey, Woburn. (January, 1913).

Temple, W. R., Ormonde, Datchet, Windsor. (December, 1908).

Teschemaker, W. E., B.A., Ringmore, Teignmouth. (March, 1907).

Thomasset, B. C., F.Z.S., The Manor House, Ashmansworth, Newbury, (July, 1912).

Thompson, M., 4, William Street, Roslyn, Dunedin, New Zealand. (June, 1911).

Thorburn, Miss C. W., 99, Edge Lane, Liverpool. (March, 1910).

Thorniley, Percy W., Shooter's Hill, Wem, Shrewsbury. (May, 1913).

Thwaites, Dr. Gilbert, B. 94, Beaconsfield Road, Brighton. (May, 1910).

Tidey, J. W., Oakdene, Victoria Road, Worthing. (January, 1912).

Tilley, G. D. F., New York, Z.S., Darien, Connecticut, U.S.A. (January, 1913).

Tomassi Baldelli, La Countessa G., 4, Via Silvio, Pelico, Florence, Italy. (December, 1901).

Tomlinson, Malcolm R., Shepherd's House, Inveresk, Midlothian. (April, 1913).

Townsend, S. M., (*Hon. Exhibitional Secretary*). 3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Original Member).

Tracy, Mrs. A. L., Rossclare, Canford Cliffs, Bournemouth. (Feb., 1914).

Travers, Mrs. Johnson, Fern Hill, Clonakilty, co. Cork. (December, 1903).

Travis, Mrs. Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge. (January, 1911).

Treloar, Sir Wm., Bart., Grange Mount, Norwood, S.E. (June, 1909).

Turner-Turner, Mrs., Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (Nov., 1910).

Tyson, C. R., 169, Sloane Street, Chelsea, London, S.W. (February, 1911).

Urwick, D. R. St. Cross Mill, Winchester. (March, 1913).

Vale, Lewis, 8, Broadway, Woodford, London, N.E. (May, 1913).

Valentine, E., 7, Highfield, Workington. (December, 1911).

Villiers, Viscountess, C. Antwick's Manor, Letcombe Regis, Wantage.. (Nov., 1912).

Vollmar, P., 8, George Street, Minories, London, E.C. (February, 1909).

Waddell, Miss E. G. R. Peddie, 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh. (February, 1909).

Wade, L. M., Oakhill Road, Ashtead, Surrey. (September, 1913).

Wait, Miss L. M., St. A., 12 Rosary Gardens, South Kensington, London, S.W. (December, 1907).

Walker, A., M.A., B.Sc., M.D., Dormant. (December, 1907).

Walsh, J., 159, Duke's Brow, Blackburn. (December, 1908).

Walsh, Jeffrey, Pheasant Aviaries, Penny Street, Blackburn. (Oct. 1910).

Ward, Hon. Mrs. Somerset, Carrowden Castle, Donaghadee, co. Down. (October,, 1905).

Wardale, H., Willington House, Willington Quay, Northumberland. (May, 1903).

Waren-Williams, H. E., Woodcote, Lodge, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (January, 1911).

Watson, S., 37, Tithebarn Street, Preston. (September, 1910).

Watts, Rudolph, Wilmar, Wiggenhall Road, Watford. (November, 1906).

Webb, Miss Katherine, Emery Down, Millington Road, Cambridge. (July, 1909).

Webster, Lady, Powdermill House, Battle, Sussex. (February, 1911).

Weir, J., Oak Cottage, Ashley, New Milton, Hants. (December, 1912).

Westacott, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead, Somerset. (September, 1907).

Weston, G. E., 42, Lewisham Road, Dartmouth Park, London, N.W. (July, 1908).

Wethey, Mrs. R. E., Lehden, Coatham, Redcar. (July, 1911).

Whistler, Hugh, I. P.,Hissar, Punjab, India. (January, 1913).

Willford, Henry (*Hon. Photographer*), Uplands View, Haven-street, Ryde. (July, 1908).

Williams, Mrs., C. H., Emmanuel Parsonage, Exeter. (January, 1911).

Williams, Mrs. Howard, 51, Harley House, Regent's Park, London, N.W. (June, 1910).

Williams, Sidney,, F.Z.S. (*Hon. Treasurer and Business Secretary*), Holland Lodge, Edmonton, London, N. (October, 1910).

Wilson, Miss F. M., 35, Emanuel Avenue, Acton, Middlesex. (March, 1906).

Wilson, T.N., M.A., Harrow Lodge, Bransgore, Christchurch. (Jan, 1902).

WINCHELSEA and NOTTINGHAM The Countess of, Haverholme Priory, Sleaford. (June, 1903).

WIMBLE, CHAS., Thirlmere, South End Road, Beckenham. (December, 1909).

WOOD, L. W., Malting Farm, Aldwincle, Thrapston. (April, 1911)

WORKMAN, W. H., M.B.O.U., Lismore, Windsor, Belfast. (June, 1912).

WRIGHT, G. B., c/o. G. Heaton, Church Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham. (June, 1908).

WRIGHT, H., NEWCOMBE, LL.B., Ravenshill, Huddersfield. (January, 1911).

WROTTESLEY, The Hon. WALTER B., F.Z.S., Seisdon, Staplecross, Hawkhurst. (December, 1902).

YEALLAND, JAMES, Binstead, Ryde. (September, 1909).

YOUNG, ARTHUR, E., 33, Brandling Park, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Oct., 1911).

YULE, Lady, Hanstead House, Bricket Wood, Herts. (January, 1914).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly informed of any errors in the above List.

◆

Associates.

HENTCH, W. J., Lockington, Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey. (Jan., 1904).

HYDE, and Co., Ltd., R., Harold Street, Camberwell, S.E. (May, 1904).

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Rules.

1. The objects of "THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members in keeping and breeding all species of Birds, and the exhibiting of Foreign Birds, and the improvement of Shows in regard to them.

2. The Club shall be composed of members and associates. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of 10s. Every associate shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of 5s. Associates shall have such of the privileges of the Members as the Council shall from time to time direct. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year. If any member's or associate's subscriptions shall be more than three months overdue, he shall be suspended from all benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue notice of his having ceased to be a Member or Associate of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member, or associate accordingly, *but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.*

3. New members shall be proposed in writing by a member of the Club; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more members shall lodge with either of the Secretaries objections to any candidate, he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors.

4. Any member wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of his intention to one of the Secretaries before the 31st of December, and in default of such notice *he shall be liable to the following year's subscription.*

5. The Officers of the Club shall be elected from the members, and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-presidents, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Veterinary Surgeon, and a Council of Twenty-four members, and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Editor, Secretaries, Treasurer, and Veterinary Surgeon shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council. Three Members of the Council retire annually by seniority, but are eligible for re-election. The Editor, Secretaries, and Treasurer shall be elected trienially. The Council and Judges shall be elected in a manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council, immediately after their own election.

6. The election for the three annual vacancies on the Council, and the Judges, shall take place every year between the 15th November and the 5th December. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each Member of the Club on or about the 15th of November a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each Member shall make a (X) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot, and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before 5th of December. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the Officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each Candidate, and send it to one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for December. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any Member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the President shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again, shall be deemed a bird dealer. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council; and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any Candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds, within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a Member of this Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its powers to a Committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between members or associates, when

requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between Members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to these Rules, but shall give to the Members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members objecting thereto within fourteen days, the proposed alterations or additions shall be submitted to the votes of the members. Failing such objection the alteration shall date from its adoption by the Council.

11. The Council shall have power to expel any Member or Associate at any time.

12.—Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a Candidate at any Election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13. If any office becomes vacant at any time other than the end of the current year of the Club the Council shall have power to appoint any member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decision of the majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

Notices to Members.

THE SECRETARIES: Owing to the exceptional times occasioning extreme business pressure upon Mr. S. Williams and Mr. S. M. Townsend, there may be a little delay in acknowledging subscriptions, and sending out exhibition medals, but all such will be dealt with as promptly as the special circumstances permit.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Members are asked to note that these became due on January 1st, and are payable in advance! We would also point out that the necessity for prompt payment is frequently overlooked, causing much inconvenience and inflicting needless labour on the Hon. Secretary, and equally needless waste of funds in making postal application. Will members suffer this reminder?

BREEDING MEDALS: The final awards will be published and the medals distributed as soon as all the accounts concerning the various records have been sent in. The claims, all we think legitimate, are as follows

SPECIES :—

*Cactus Conure (*Conurus cactorum*)—Dr. Lovell-Keays.
*All-Green Parrakeet (*Brotogerys tirica*). Dr. Lovell-Keays.
*Dwarf Weaver (*Sitagra luteola*)—W. Shore Baily.
*Sulphury Seed-eater (*Serinus sulphuratus*)—W. Shore Baily.
Sharp-tailed Finch (*Uroloncha acuticauda*)—R. Suggitt.
‡Lesser Grey-headed Guan (*Ortalis vetula*)—R. Suggitt.

HYBRIDS :—

*Tri-coloured Mannikin × Bengalese—W. A. Bainbridge.
*Silverbill × Bronze Mannikin—Miss M. Boyd.

*Greenfinch × Sikhim Siskin—W. Shore Baily.
‡Spice × Bib Finch—W. Shore Baily.
Grey × White-throated Finch—R. Suggitt.
*Red-vented × Red-eared Bulbul—Miss A. B. Smyth.
Magpie Mannikin × Bengalese—L. M. Wade.
Greenfinch × Ruddy Finch—L. M. Wade.

**Articles have been published. ‡Articles received, awaiting publication.*

If any member knows of any previous successes with any of the above, will they kindly send details to either the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Editor at once?

Show Section: We desire to call the attention of members to the first Welsh National Show—the whole of the proceeds are to be given to the "Prince of Wales' Fund"—members are asked to give it their best support. See full details under "The Show Season" in this issue.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Roll of Honour.

The Hon. Vere D. Boscawen.—*Killed in action.*

Sir R. J. Corbet, Bart.—*Wounded.*

Details are very meagre at present, but the following are serving with the colours:

Mr. B. Hollins.
Major B. R. Horsbrugh.
Mr. F. King.
Capt. J. S. Reeve.
Dr. Sprawson, *Capt. R.A.M.C., with the Expeditionary Force.*
Mr. R. Suggitt, *Musketry Instructor.*
Dr. Gosse, *Sussex Yeomanry.*
Dr. Legh de Legh, *Major, R.A.M.C.; 4th, Batt. Yorks. Regt.*

Post Mortem Reports.

Bullfinch (♀). (Mrs. G. Christie), Elgin. The bird had injured the scapular nerve, which caused paralysis of some of the shoulder muscles which are supplied by that nerve. Breeding in confinement is very uncertain in results.

Waxwing. (Geo. Scott Freeland), Tonbridge. The Waxwing was in the pink of condition, but its viscera was enveloped in fat. There is no doubt it died from syncope, the result of fatty infiltration of the heart.

Pekin Robin. (Miss Clara Bowring), Worcestershire. The bird died from fatty degeneration of the liver.

(T. Hebbs), Luton. Both birds were males. The cause of death was pneumonia.

EAST AFRICAN MASKED WEAVER. (Peter Arnott), Alloa. The East African Masked Weaver died from pneumonia.

HAWFINCH. (J. Goodchild), Clare, Suffolk. The cause of death was pneumonia.

Answered by post:—J. Clarke; James Yealland.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Illustration and Deficit Funds.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Bruce, Miss A.	0	10	0
Currie, J.	0	2	6
Dunleath, The Lady	0	10	0
Herbert, E. Greville	0	8	0
Hopkinson, Dr. E.	1	1	0
Page, Wesley T.	1	0	0
Paterson, Rev. J. M.	0	10	0
Pennant, Lady Edith Douglas	0	10	0
Scott-Miller, R.	0	10	0
Segur, Le Comte de	0	12	6
Smyth, Miss A. B.	0	5	0
Webster, Lady	0	10	0

New Members Elected.

W. G. Percival, Nanga, Chania Bridge, British East Africa.

A. E. Stott, 15, East Parade, Leeds.

Edward Grevile Herbert, Bombay Burmah Trading Co., Bangkok, Siam, and The Rectory, Hemingford Abbot, St. Ives, Hunts.

W. G. Clark, Hummers Knott, Windsor Road, Slough.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs Chatterton, 11 Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N.

By S. Williams.

W. E. Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby.

By the Hon. Editor.

The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted patronage to Watford, and the following Show. Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after each entry.

CARDIFF. Welsh National Cage Bird Society. February 5th, 6th, and 8th, Classification for ten classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver and Two Bronze Medals. Judge: Mr. W. T. Page. Schedules from Mr. W. Sampson, Langland House, Llanishen Street, Cardiff.

The Show Committee wish to call the attention of Members to the fact that the whole of the proceeds of this show will be handed to the Prince of Wales Fund.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

S. M. TOWNSEND,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Two Hybrid Silverbill × Bronze Mannikins, outdoors, 5s. each.—Miss Mary Boyd, Webbery, Bideford, Devon.

FOR SALE: Two pairs Chinese Geese.—Capt. Reeve, Glendaragh, Caterham.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pairs of Himalayan Snow Pigeons, rare Rufous Pigeons, Indian Necklace Doves and Australian Crested Pigeons, or would EXCHANGE for such as Passerine, Rosella, or Pennant's Parrakeets to value.—A. G. Findeisen, Hallow Dene, Torquay.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised cock Cuban Red-legged Thrush, 35s.; also 2 cock Crimson-wing Parrakeets, £13 the two. Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Wighill Park, Tadcaster.

FOR SALE: Fine pair Swainson's Lorikeets, cocks; Rainbow, Nonpareil and Indigo Buntings; Cuban Finch, Violet-eared Waxbill, and Troupial. WANTED: Yellow-mantled Rosella and other rare Parrakeets, Bourke's, etc. Miss Clare, The Hollies, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

EXCHANGE: Will give two cock Olive Finches for one hen, and one Zebra Finch hen for two cocks. All must be from out-door aviary and absolutely healthy. Mrs. Stanley Gardiner, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and re-furnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. NEST BARRELS, for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twigy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills, and small Finches.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

The Foreign Bird Club.

(*Continued from page* 1).

◆

Magazine Committee :

Dr. M. Amsler
W. A. Bainbridge
Dr. P. Gosse
H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S.
Dr. L. Lovell-Keays
Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh
Rev. G. H. Raynor
Dr, J. Easton Scott
R. Suggitt
H. Willford

Show Committee :

W. A. Bainbridge
Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke
A. Silver
S. M. Townsend (Hon. Sec.)

Social Committee :

Mrs. C. Anningson
Miss M. E. Baker
Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke
Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley
W. Bamford
W. T. Rogers (Hon. Sec.)
A. Sutcliffe
W. R. Temple

Awards Committee :

Hon. W. B. Wrottesley
Countess of Winchilsea
H. Bright
E. W. Chaplin
Dr. Hetley
R. Suggitt (Hon. Sec.)

Auditor—G. Scott-Freeland.

Scrutineer—S. Beaty.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: There are still many members who do not contribute anything concerning their Aviaries and Birds to the Club Journal. Probably in consequence of these stirring times, some of the pens that helped us last year will be silent during the coming season, and we shall require others to fill the gap; however this may be, variety will certainly enhance the value of the Club Journal and increase its practical interest. We venture to suggest to members, that they closely observe their birds, and jot down any items of interest (*items that interest any individual member, will interest and help some other member*) at once; the careful keeping of nesting records, also notes of the demeanour of the birds in the respective seasons of the year. Notes concerning species wintered out of doors and their demeanour during this period will be of great value, if details of accommodation are also given. Such records need not be elaborately written, pencil will suffice, as the Hon. Editor will be pleased to arrange and see all such contributions through in good order.

Progress: Your help is needed, and can be given in many ways, during this trying period (see Editorial Note in January "Bird Notes") and if all do what they can—getting new members, writing articles, donations, prompt payment of subscriptions, etc. the result at the end is certain to be a satisfactory one.

S. WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treas.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

Roll of Honour.

We are repeating the names given in January issue (as details are now a little more complete) with others since to hand—in future issues only additions and casualties will be published. All are asked to help that the roll may be as complete as possible.

The Hon. Vere D. Boscawen, *Coldstream Guards Killed in action.*

Sir R. J. Corbet, Bart, *Coldstream Guards—Wounded.*

Major Horsbrugh, *Army Service Corps.*

Capt. J. S. Reeve, *Grenadier Guards.*

Dr. Sprawson, *Capt. R.A.M.C., with the Expeditionary Force.*

Dr. Gosse, *Sussex Yeomanry.*

Dr. Legh de Legh, *Major, R.A.M.C., 4th Batt. Yorks. Regt.*

Mr. R. Suggitt, *Musketry Instructor.*

Mr. B. Hollins, *Paymaster's Office.*

Mr. W. A. Bainbridge, *Army Service Corps.*

Mr. F. King.
Mr. F. Andrews.
Mr. H. Newcombe Wright.
Mr. H. P. Gloyns.

◆

Illustration and Deficit Funds.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations.

	£	s.	d.
Baily, W. Shore	0	10	6
Browning, W. H.	0	10	0
Freeland, G. Scott	0	11	0
Rothwell, J. E.	2	0	0
Sich, H. L.	0	10	0
Storey, Mrs. A.	0	2	6
Wait, Miss St. A.	0	10	0

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

Kenneth N. Woodward, 1, Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A.
By the Hon. Editor.

Mrs. H. F. Dunkley; Prome, Burma, India.
By O. O'Donnell.

Herbert J. Turner, Tremadoc, Keyberry Park, Newton Abbot.
By the Hon. Editor.

E. Wedge, Kingscote, Trinity Road, Wood Green, London, N.
By R. B. Cross.

Mrs. D Fitzwilliam-Hall, Trevu, Camborne, Cornwall.
By S. Williams.

◆

New Members Elected.

Mrs Chatterton, 11 Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N.
W. E Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby.

◆

Changes and Corrections of Address.

F. Hansell, to Roydon, Corstorphine, Midlothian.
Mrs. E Harrop Sidebottom, to Meyrick Cliffs Hotel, Bournemouth.

Addition to Roll.

J. Sykes, 16, Shorthope Street, Musselburgh. (Jan., 1912).

◆

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. *Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum* 6d.

◆

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Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

◆

MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pairs of Himalayan Snow Pigeons, rare Rufous Pigeons, Indian Necklace Doves and Australian Crested Pigeons, or would EXCHANGE for such as Passerine, Rosella, or Pennant's Parrakeets to value.—A. G. Findeisen, Hallow Dene, Torquay.

FOR SALE: Australian Bronze-winged Dove, and pair Continental Gimple Pigeons.—Mrs. Paget-Steavenson, Hurworth, Darlington.

FOR SALE, RARE AND ACCLIMATISED PARROTS, ETC.: 1 pair Severe Macaws (small size), rare, including cage, £6; 2 Blue and Yellow Macaws, £6 each; 1 Red and Blue Macaw and cage £12; 2 cock Leadbeater Cockatoos and cages, £6 each; 1 rare Goffin's Cockatoo and cage £10; 1 rare Large-billed Bottle Parrot and cage £10; 1 Yellow-fronted Amazon and cage, talks well, £8; 1 Red-fronted Amazon and cage, talks a little, £5; 1 Red-vented Parrot and cage, £5; 2 cock Salmon-crested Cockatoos, very fine, fit for show, £10 each including cage; 1 Slender-bill Cockatoo and cage, exhibition condition, £5; 1 very fine Ring-necked Parrakeet and cage, good talker, £4; 1 Bare-eyed Cockatoo and cage, show specimen £5; 1 pair Small Yellow-crested Cockatoos and cage £12. The cages are not ordinary ones, but specially and very strongly made and costly ones. An unique opportunity to acquire healthy and acclimatised birds, every specimen a potential winner. —Apply, Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Maximilian's Parrot, 60s.; Petz's Conure, talks, 20s.; Rare Amazon (*Chrysotis inornata*) 50s.; Great Lemon-crested Cockatoo 30s.; Pair Red-collared Lorikeets, 80s.; Pair Ring-necked Parrakeets, 15s.; Blue-crowned Conure, 20s.; Panama Amazon Parrot, great pet, 60s.; Jackdaw, 3s. 6d.; faultless pair Virginian Cardinals, 45s., Patagonian Hawk (*Cerchneis cinnamomina*), 25s. —Dawson-Smith, Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, Bucks.

FOR SALE or EXCHANGE: Last 4 Vols. of Club Magazine ('B.N."), two bound, spotless, 10s. each, exchange Parrakeets; hens Gouldian Finch and Diamond Dove, or offer. Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge.

FOR SALE: Yellow-mantled Parrakeet; cocks, Violet-eared Waxbill, Ruficauda and Aurora Finches; Pennant's, Brown's, and Hooded Parrakeets. WANTED: Blue-winged Lovebirds, Cordon Bleu, hen Blue Budgerigar and Rare Parrakeets.—Miss Clare, The Hollies, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon.

FOR SALE. Virginian Nightingale, 21s.; also Black and White Cardinal, red head, 17s. 6d.; both cocks, acclimatised and healthy.—Mrs. Croysdale, Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.

FOR SALE. Diamond Dove, cock, 12s. 6d.; Red-headed Finches, 21s. per pair; Tricolour Mannikin × Bengalese hybrids, 5s. each; pair Jacarini Finches, 25s.; Bicheno's Finch, 10s.; hen Cherry Finch, 10s., cock St. Helena Seedeater, 7s. 6d.; cock Quail Finch, 10s. 6d.; Scaly-crowned Finches 21s. pair; pair Diamond Sparrows, 25s., very fine Bare-eyed Cockatoo and cage, 35s.—Mrs. Bainbridge, Hazelwood, Thorpe, Chertsey, Surrey.

AUSTRALIAN BIRDS FOR SALE: Comprising, 1 pair Gang Gang Cockatoos, very tame and in good feather, hen talks a little. Young Red-vented Blue Bonnet, coming into colour. Splendid King Parrakeet in full colour. One Musky Lorikeet (on Canary seed only). 3 Sydney Waxbills (cock and two hens, I think). Pair Red-headed Gouldians. Also hens of the following species: Black-headed Gouldian, Long-tailed Grass, Pectoral, Masked Grass, Chestnut-breasted, Bicheno's and Ringed Finches. Grand White-eye-browed Wood-Swallow.—All picked birds.—R. Colton, 9 Birkendale Road, Sheffield.

WANTED: Cock Waxwing in exchange for hen.—W. E. Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby.

WANTED: Ruddy Dwarf Turtle Dove (hen), also pair White Doves.—Mrs. Paget Steavenson, Hurworth, Darlington.

WANTED: Good, young, breeding Hen Rosella Parrakeet, from outdoor aviary.—W. H. Workman, Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and re-furnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. NEST BARRELS, for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twigy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills, and small Finches.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

D. G. SCHUYL, 12, Toe-Haringvliet, Rotterdam, Holland. Importer and Dealer of Rare Birds. Speciality: Ornamental Waterfowl; White, Black, and Black-necked Swans; rare and common species of Geese and Ducks; Tufted Ducks, Scaups, Smews; various species Teal, etc.

FOR SALE: Malaccan Pink-cheeked Parrakeet (*Palaeornis longicauda*) 50s., Plum-headed Parrakeet 50s., Rosellas 25s.; Mealy Rosella 60s.; Barnard's Parrakeet 80s.; King Parrakeet £10; Cochin China Lory (*Domicella riciniata*) 60s.; Crimson Lory 70s.; Red-sided Eclectus, cock, £6; Ceram Eclectus, hen, £6; Double-fronted Amazon 80s.; Black-cheeked Lovebirds 50s. pair; Budgerigars 5s 6d. to 30s.; Yucatan Blue and Black Jay, £5 5s.; White Blackbird £5; Waxwing 50s.; Chinese Dhyal Birds 50s.; Yellow-winged Sugarbird 50s.; Jenny Wrens, Long-tailed Tits, hand-reared, 21s. each; Pekin Robin, fine singer, 12s. 6d.; Virginia Nightingale, fine singer, 30s.; Montezuma Quail, cock, 25s.; Gouldian Finches, 60s. pair; Long-tailed, Chestnut-breasted, Masked, 40s. pair; Firefinches 21s. pair; Zebra Finches 10s. 6d. pair Single:—Yellow-rumped, Pectoralis, Parson, 20s.; Chinese Siskin 10s. 6d.; Red-headed Finch 7s. 6d.; mostly acclimatised prize winners in show condition. Illustrated Magazine Article on my birds, 2d.—John Frostick, 50 Boundaries Road, Balham, S.W.

MARCH, 1915.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

THE YEAR'S WORK : The year is sure to be a difficult one, and your Secretaries request your co-operation in seeking to extend the club membership, and also, to ease their burdens by the prompt remittance of subscriptions and donations to the Illustration and Deficit Funds.

THE MAGAZINE : The Hon. Editor tenders grateful thanks for the generous response to his request for copy, etc., there are however still a large proportion of our members who have as yet sent in no account of the past season ; attention is also drawn to a short Editorial paragraph on this topic at the foot of this page.

S. WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treas.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Editorial.

THE MAGAZINE : We hope to issue the usual number of coloured plates in the course of the volume, and also to keep up the number and excellence of our half-tone illustrations. This, however, can only be accomplished by the help and co-operation of all ; it is especially necessary that in such critical times all subscriptions should be promptly remitted to the Hon. Treasurer, also that all able and willing should send their donations to the Illustration and Deficit Funds as early as possible, so that such coloured plates, as we feel warranted in issuing, may be prepared ahead and not suffer from having to be rushed through. We specially appeal to our wealthy members to help us to this end, and feel we need not urge the matter further, as past procedure should, we think, augur well for the present and future. We are pleased to note that the usual Editorial Notes are crowded out by a liberal supply of interesting articles. That the varied contents of the Journal may be maintained, we invite articles on avicultural experiences in the keeping of *all species* of birds in cage or aviary, which the many can supply and make our Journal thoroughly comprehensive.

ERRATA : We regret that an error crept into the index of English Names of last volume. At top of second column of page 430, "Finch" should read *Dove*—while the error is soon apparent, its prompt correction may save trouble when hurriedly using the index. Page 27, lines 3 and 4 from bottom "Green-fronted" should read Gold-fronted.

Roll of Honour.

SERVING WITH THE COLOURS :—

H. Fisher-Rowe, *Lt.-Col. commanding Res. Reg. Surrey Yeomanry.*
W. J Norwood Ryan, *Second Lieut. Q.O.D. Yeomanry.*

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules, see page II. of cover.

SUPERB TANAGER. (G. S. Freeland). The cause of death was enteritis. I found in the intestine a hair-like parasite, which was full of eggs Apparently this would account for the enteritis.

If you have any more birds in the aviary in which this one had been you had better give in their drinking water sulphate of iron and sodium sulphate (commonly known as Glauber salts), one grain of the former to thirty grains of the latter in a pint of water. Repeat this daily.

The floor of the aviary should be thoroughly scraped and sprinkled with freshly slaked lime so as to remove or kill any ova.

According to my friend Mr. A. W. Noel Pillers, F.R.C.V.S., the distinguished parasitologist at the Liverpool University to whom I submitted the parasite, the parasite belongs to the genus *Capillaria* to which there belongs 70 to 80 known species.

Yellow-winged Sugar-Bird (♂). (J. E. Haggie). The cause of death was pneumonia, When birds are in a state of debility or physiological misery they do not attend to their toilet, and in consesequence this further weakens them. It is a bad plan to wash them forcibly when in this state especially during such weather we have been experiencing. A great number of birds, die during convulsions, which are set up by a toxic state of the blood.

When birds are unthrifty, neglect their toilet and appear weak, they require to be kept in a very warm place and fed on highly nutritious and stimulating food. Brand's Essence of Beef, or Valentine's Meat Juice is a very good pick-me-up, so is liquid malt extract containing a little wine.

The less handling sickly birds have the better, as forcible interference is injurious if not fatal. Better give Nature a chance than killing by unmistaken kindness.

Lovebird. (Mrs. E. G. Davies, Daresbury Hall, near Warrington, Lovebird. The liver was intensely affected by fatty degeneration which is generally caused by improper dietary when not due to an infectious process.

Cordon Bleu. (Geo. Scott Freeland). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Answered by post.—Mrs. K. de Legh; Jas. Yealland.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Illustration and Deficit Funds.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Charlesworth, Miss	0	10	0
Lovell-Keays, Dr.	0	10	6
Perreau, Major G. A.	1	0	0
Suggitt, R.	0	10	0
Young, A. C.	0	5	0

Errata Re Roll.

J. E. Rothwell—"Brooklyn," should read *Brookline.*

Miss M. E. Southey—"Kent," should read *Sussex.*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

The Hon Mrs. Somerset Ward, to Greenmount, Newcastle, Co. Down.
G. E. Rattigan, to Doverton House, Stonehouse, Glos.

New Members Elected.

Kenneth N. Woodward, 1, Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A.
Mrs. H. F. Dunkley; Prome, Burma, India.
Herbert J. Turner, Tremadoc, Keyberry Park, Newton Abbot.
E. Wedge, Kingscote, Trinity Road, Wood Green, London, N.
Mrs. D Fitzwilliam-Hall, Trevu, Camborne, Cornwall.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Miss G. M. Hooper, Lansdown, West Derby, Liverpool.
G. J. Slade, 34 Milton Road, Fitzhugh, Southampton,

By the Hon. Editor.

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. *Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum* 6d.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each. with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place. Ashbourne

MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Levaillant's Parrot (*Poiocephalus robustus*), only specimen in Britain, £5: Aubry's Parrot, rare and beautiful, £5; Red-vented Parrot, 1st L.C.B.A., 1913, £3 (exceptionally tame); Fine cock Mealy Rosella, from out-door aviary, £3.—Rev. G. H. Raynor, Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon.

FOR SALE: 2 Capital Aviaries, semi-detached, perfect: consisting of bird-houses, and flights fitted, and pipes, £12, or best offer. Each aviary is 6ft. square.—Miss Jackson, Cowhill, Rutland Road, Harrogate, Yorks.

FOR SALE: Pair of Red-collared Lorrikeets, thoroughly acclimatised, been out of doors all winter, £6.—Mrs. E. G. Davies, Daresbury Hall, Warrington.

FOR SALE: Scaly-crowned Finches, 30s. pair. Tricolour Parrot-Finch, 50s.; Blue-breasted Waxbills, 25s. pair: Bengalese, 7s. 6d. pair, hens, 4s. 6d.; Hen Melba Finch, 20s.; Cock Gouldian Finch, 30s. Galloway, Fernville, Fortis Green, East Finchley, London.

FOR SALE: Maximilian's Parrot (*Pionus maximiliani*), 60s.; Panama Amazon (*Chrysotis panamensis*), talker, 60s.; Blue-fronted Amazon, 60s.; Great Lemon-crested Cockatoo, 30s.; Pair Ring-necked Parrakeets, 15s.; Cock Virginian Nightingale, fine songster, 20s.; Pair Jackdaws, 6s. 6d.; Small Patagonian Falcon (*Cerchneis cinnamomina*), rare and handsome, 25s. All birds fully acclimatised. -Dawson-Smith, Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, Bucks.

FOR SALE: RARE AND ACCLIMATISED PARROTS, ETC.; 2 Blue and Yellow Macaws, £6 each; 1 Red and Blue Macaw, tame, can be petted, £12; including cage; 1 Rare Large-billed Bottle Parrot and cage, £10; 1 Yellow-fronted Amazon, good talker, £8, including cage; 1 Red-fronted Amazon, talks a little, £5, including cage; 1 Red-vented Parrot and cage, £5; 1 Ring-necked Parrakeet, amusing pet, comes to hand, good talker, £4; including ing cage, 2 cock Leadbeater Cockatoos and cages, £6 each; 1 Rare Goffin's Cockatoo and cage, £10; 2 cock Salmon-crested Cockatoos, very fine, exhibition specimens, both talk, £10 each, including cage; 1 Slender-billed Cockatoo and cage, very fine, £5; 1 Bare-eyed Cockatoo, exhibition specimen, talks a little, £5, including cage, 1 pair Small Yellow-crested Cockatoos (*Cacatua parvula*), rare, £12, including cage. All are perfect specimens. An unique opportunity to acquire healthy and acclimatised birds. Also 2 hen Black Tanagers, aviary bred, been out all winter.—Apply Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

SOME PARRAKEETS for Sale; Violet-eared Waxbill; Ruficauda, Lavender, Diamond and Gouldian Finches. WANTED: Hen Cordon Bleu and other small Waxbills, also rare Parrakeets—Bourke's hen, Barraband's.—Miss Clare, The Hollies, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon.

WANTED Foreign Doves, for out-door aviary. Mrs. Paget-Steavenson, Hurworth, Darlington.

WANTED: Orange-cheeked Waxbill, and Cordon Bleu Hens, from out-door aviary preferred.—Mrs. Tracy, Rossclare, Canford, Cliffs, Bournemouth.

WANTED. True pair, acclimatised Olive Finches, exchange any Bound Volume of *Bird Notes* since 1910.—Miss Webb, Millington Road, Cambridge.

WANTED: Hen Cordon Bleu.—H. J. Turner, Tremadoc, Keyberry Park, Newton Abbot.

D. G. SCHUYL, 12, Toe-Haringvliet, Rotterdam, Holland. Importer and Dealer of Rare Birds. Speciality: Ornamental Waterfowl; White, Black, and Black-necked Swans; rare and common species of Geese and Ducks; Tufted Ducks, Scaups, Smews; various species Teal, etc.

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Telephone:—
5489 London Wall.

Telegraphic Address:—
"Oiseaux, London."

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

MEMBERS' MEETINGS: The first of these will take place on Wednesday, April 28th. *Rendezvous*, London Zoo, The Small Birds' House, at 12 and 2-30 p.m. A second meeting is arranged for Saturday, May 15th, at same time and place. It is hoped that a good number will be present on each occasion.

THE MAGAZINE: Articles wanted on Waders and Waterfowl, Game Birds, and Aviary Records generally. Also donations for the Illustration Fund.

BACK VOLUMES: Members can materially help the Club by purchasing Back Volumes (see advt. page IV. of cover); these are good value at the price quoted, profusely illustrated with black and white, and coloured plates; also, replete with all data concerning practical aviculture, while the wild-life of the occupants of our aviaries is not neglected. A complete set of "Bird Notes" is about the best guide an aviculturist could wish for.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

Post Mortem Reports.

Continued from page 108 (*white paper*).

GREAT-BILLED PARROT. (James Yealland, Binstead, I. of W.). The cause of death was enteritis. The sex was male. You could have given condensed milk and a bismuth mixture, and kept the bird in a higher temperature, say at 80 deg. F. to 100 deg. F. Birds have, as a rule, very high temperatures, and therefore they can withstand a temperature that would flatten us out. The fowl's temperature averages 106.5 deg. F., Canaries and most Finches 108 deg. F., and the Swallow as much as 112 deg. F. The Ostrich's temperature is 98.6 deg. F. It would be very interesting if aviculturists would take temperatures of healthy birds and record their findings. The thermometer should be introduced into the vent and held there for a few minutes.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

◆

Illustration and Deficit Funds.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations.

	£	s.	d.
Armstein, A.	0	10	0
Hewitt, F. W. G.	1	1	0

Roll of Honour.

SERVING WITH THE COLOURS:—

A. E. Young. *2nd Lieut., 16th (Service) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.*

K. A. Appleby.—*Postal Section, British East Africa.*

New Members Elected.

Miss G. M. Hooper, Lansdown, West Derby, Liverpool.

G. J. Slade, 34 Milton Road, Fitzhugh, Southampton,

Proposed for Election as Members.

J. E. Hawkins, Belvedere, Streetley Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield.

Philip Rickman, Brookmead, Windsor Road, Bray, Berks.

Mrs. Alice Speaker, Gifford Lodge, Twickenham.

By the Hon. Editor.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

A. E. Young; to Thornhill, Alnwick.

Mrs. E. Harrop Sidebottom, to Etherow House, Hollingworth, Cheshire.

The Show Season.

London Cup. This Cup was won outright by Mr. A. Ezra and has now passed into his possession. The competition which was inaugurated in 1909, has resulted as follows:—

1909—1910.	Won by	Mr. O. Millsum
1910—1911	,, ,,	Mr. F. Howe.
1911—1912	,, ,,	Mr. S. M. Townsend.
1912—1913	,, ,,	Mr. A. Ezra.
1913—1914	,, ,,	Mr. A. Ezra.
1914—1915	,, ,,	Mr. A. Ezra.

The Show Committee have to express their sincere thanks to Mr. A. Ezra for having generously presented another cup to continue the competition.

Provincial Cup.—The Provincial Cup has not been competed for this year. So many Shows were not held and those that were, were either obliged to curtail their classification or applied too late for members to have notice in the magazine.

The Medal winners for the season are:—

L.C.B.A **Silver Medals**:—

Miss L. Clare.
Mr. C. Row.
Mr A. Ezra.

Bronze Medals:—

Miss A. B. Smyth.
Mr A. Silver.
Lady Kathleen Pilkington.

Scottish National Show.—Medals not awarded; only two members competing.

Watford:

Silver Medal:—

Mr A. Silver.

Bronze Medal:—

Mr. W. Frost.

S. M. TOWNSEND,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

The Bird Market.

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Apply to The Publisher, Market Place, Ashbourne

MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE. Grey Singingfinches, Hen Cutthroats, and true pairs of Zebra Finches. WANTED: Orange Bishop, Tiger Finch, Madagascar Weaver, and Saffron Finch hens.—Mrs. Pope, Howden, Tiverton, Devon.

FOR SALE: Male Pekingese Dog, Red Brindle, lovely little pet for gentleman or lady; good house dog, in splendid health, very strong and clean; a small price will be accepted for a really good home.—Mrs. Anningson, Walthamsal, Barton Road, Cambridge.

FOR SALE: Three Parrots, very tame, acclimatised Amazons, different species and talkers; also Bauer's Parrakeet, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, and Maximilian's Parrot, cheap.—Dawson-Smith, Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, Bucks.

FOR SALE: Nightingale, perfect, 42s.; Long-tailed Tits, Jenny Wrens, hand-reared, winners, 21s. each; Bearded Tits, 21s. pair; Blackbird, winner, 50s.; White Blackbird, £5; Plum-headed Parrakeet, 50s.; Barnard's Parrakeet, 80s.; King Parrakeet, £10; Cochin China Lory, 60s.; Crimson Lory, 70s.; Red-sided Eclectus, cock, £6; Ceram Eclectus, hen, £6; Double-fronted Amazon, 80s.; Budgerigars, the champion pair, 30s.; others from 5s. 6d.; Yucatan

8 .1902

Blue and Black Jay £5 5s.; Chinese Dhyal Bird, 50s.; Yellow-winged Sugarbird, 50s.; Pekin Robin, fine songster, 15s.; Virginian Nightingale, 25s.; Montezuma Quail, cock, 25s.; pairs, Gouldian Finches, 60s.; Long-tailed, Chestnut-breasted, Masked, 40s.; Zebra Finches, 15s.; single, Pectoralis, Parson, 20s.; Chinese Siskin, hen, Red-headed Finch, 10s. 6d.; all thoroughly acclimatised, prize winners, show condition; illustrated magazine article describing my birds, 2d.—John Frostick, 50, Boundaries Road, Balham.

WANTED: About 6 pairs of small Foreign Finches.—Miss Hooper, Lansdown, West Derby, Liverpool.

WANTED: Australian Bronze-wing Dove (hen).—Mrs. Paget Steavenson, Hurworth, Darlington.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and re-furnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. NEST BARRELS, for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twigy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills, and small Finches.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

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548 London Wall.

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"Oiseaux, London."

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Club Meetings: There will be another gathering of Members at the London Zoo, on Wednesday, June 9th. *Rendezvous,* The Small Birds' House, at 12 and 2-30 p.m.

Marriage of the Hon. Secretary: We tender the Club's congratulations and best wishes to Mr. S. Williams, our energetic and genial Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, who was married on April 29th to Miss Muriel Nash, the daughter of —. Nash, Esq., of Fairlawn, Bickley, Kent. We take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation and thanks for his valuable services as *Hon. Business Secretary and Treasurer*, and hope that they may be long continued.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

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Roll of Honour.

Killed in Action, April 15th: Sir Roland J. Corbet, Bart.

Serving with the Colours: Mr. W. A. Bainbridge has received a commission (2nd Lieut.) A.S.C. (Mechanical Transport).

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Illustration and Deficit Funds.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations.

	£	s.	d.
Tavistock, The Marquis of	20	0	0
Young, A. C.	0	5	0

In the list published in our April issue, the name "A. Armstein" should have been M. Armstein.—Ed.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

S. Williams, to "Oakleigh," 110, Riverway, Palmers Green, London, N.

Mrs Howard Williams, to 24 Harley House, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

F. Capern, to Lewins Mead, Bristol.

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

Walter Hyde, Kempton Park, Sunbury-on-Thames.

By the Hon. Editor.

◆

New Members Elected.

J. E Hawkins, Belvedere, Streetley, Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield.
Philip Richman, Brookmead, Windsor Road, Bray, Berks.
Mrs. Alice Speaker, Gifford Lodge, Twickenham.

The Bird Market.

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WANTED: No. 1, Vol. I. (1910) of *Bird Notes*. Full published price given for a limited number of copies.—The Publisher, Market Place, Ashbourne.

MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE Cocks, Jacarini Finch, or would buy hen; St. Helena Seed-eater, Blue-breasted Waxbill, and Zebra Finch. Hens, Cherry Finch, Button Quail and Red-headed Finch. WANTED: Red-headed Gouldian Finch, cock.—Mrs. Bainbridge, Hazelwood, Thorpe, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Amazon Parrot, finger-tame, perfect condition, 50s.; Maximilian's Parrot, tame, talks, 50s.; pair Ring-necked Parrakeets, 15s., Great Lemon-crested Cockatoo, 30s.; all above are perfect birds and thoroughly acclimatised.—Dawson-Smith, Nash Rectory, Stony-Stratford, Bucks.

FOR SALE: 1, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, 50s.; Red-collared Lorikeet, 50s., 1 pair Brown's Parrakeets, £10. All acclimatised and in show condition, Brown's should nest this season.—Hebb, Brooklea, Downs, Luton.

FOR SALE. Pair Cordon Bleus, winners; Crimson-crowned Weaver; Pin-tailed Whydah, cock; Blue-throated Warbler, perfect.—Shipton, 71 Cloudesdale Road, Balham.

FOR SALE: Hen Rainbow Bunting, or would buy good acclimatised Cock.—Capt. Reeve, Glendaragh, Caterham, Surrey.

WANTED Cock Cuban Finch, acclimatised and in good condition.—Miss Lucas, 46, Gloucester Square, Hyde Park, London, W.

WANTED: Hens, Black-cheeked, Blue-winged and Madagascar Lovebirds. Blue-crowned and St. Thomas' Conures. FOR SALE: Hens, Aurita and Bronze-wing Doves; and Pileated Finch. Cocks, Bronze-wing Dove and Grey Grosbeak, the latter a fine singer.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

WANTED: Cock King Parrakeet, Bourke's and other rare species. FOR SALE: Cocks, Violet-eared Waxbill; Ruficauda and Alario Finches, Cordon Bleu; Crimson-wing and Rosella Parrakeets; also pair Red-billed Weavers; Peach-faced Lovebirds.—Miss Clare, The Hollies, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

BUDGERIGAR RINGS: It is neither kind nor profitable to in-breed Budgerigars, For identifying young from twelve different nests, 2s. 1d.; six, 1s. 1d.; three, 7d.; seven rings each nest with instructions. Age, relationship, aviary economy, and success assured. —J Ford, 258 Welford Road, Leicester.

WANTED. Hens, Jungle Bush Quail, Masked Dove, Silky Cowbird, Zebra Finches, and Hair-crested Bunting. Cocks: Cuban Finch.—Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE. Breeding Pairs Melba Finches, 60s.; Longtailed Grassfinches, Chestnut-breasted Finches, 40s.; Red-headed hen and Ribbon Finch cock, for hybridizing, 15s.; Hooded Siskin cock, 35s.; Chinese Siskin hen, 10s. 6d.; Pectoral Mannikin, Long-tailed Grassfinch; Parson Finch, 20s. each; Paradise Whydah hen, 7s. 6d.; Yucatan Jay £5 5s.; Chinese Dhyal Bird 50s.; White Blackbird hen anxious to nest, £5; Nightingale, cage-moulted, perfect, 45s.; Jenny Wren, cage-moulted, 25s.; Long-tailed Tit, cage-moulted, 21s.; Bearded Tits, 21s. pair; Violet-necked Lory, unique, finger-tame pet, 60s.; genuine Ceram Lory, not common Yellow-backed, 70s.; Cardinal Eclectus hen, £6; Double-fronted Amazon, finest specimen living, £4; all thoroughly acclimatised, illustrated magazine article describing my birds, 2d.; "Bird Notes," Vol. I., out of print, scarce, 12s. 6d.—John Frostick, 50 Boundaries Road, Balham.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and re-furnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. NEST BARRELS, for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twigy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills, and small Finches.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

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The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: We would remind Members that now the nesting season is fairly well advanced, is the time to write articles for "B.N.," on their successes, all-but successes, and failures. Because a species has been bred and written about previously, does not rob a similar account of all interest. Treatment, accommodation, etc., vary almost with each individual aviary, and this feature alone makes repetition articles not merely of interest, but valuable also: where possible, the elements that *you* think made for success, or cause of failure, as well as accommodation, food, and general treatment should be given. We repeat, we desire the Club Journal to be largely a record of English aviculture in the aviaries of our members—many an interesting episode has been lost, because it was thought to be too trivial for the interest to be other than personal. The Hon. Editor will be glad to receive such articles, and others on all topics pertaining to aviculture, also field notes on wild life from Members resident abroad.

Helping the Club: We need more Members, you are urged to make F.B.C. known to all who are interested in birds who do not belong to us—*the field is a wide one!* We need more donations to swell the fund for the reproduction of the many interesting photos that reach us from time to time. New members can materially assist the club by purchasing back volumes of "B.N." We offer (*members only*) complete sets of *loose* parts of any year still in stock at 10s. per set from 1905 to date. A complete set may well be termed a veritable *vade mecum* of practical aviculture.

Club Meetings: We have thought it best to continue the periodical gatherings at the London Zoo. Naturally the attendance has not been large, but nevertheless has been maintained. The next will take place on Saturday, July 17th. *Rendezvous*, Small Bird House, at 2-30.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Continued from page* 168).

The casual micro-organism of this disease has been considered by many authorities to belong to the paratyphoid B group, but Stazzi's investigations have led him to conclude that the causal factor belongs to the invisible virus group, to which most viruses of the true contagious diseases belong In that case its nature resembles that of avian plague.

Probably salicylate of soda and a purely milk diet would have prolonged the bird's life. Although I don't advocate milk or any other animal product as a food for Parrots during health, milk is an excellent nutrient for the sick bird, when his appetite is diminished, his digestion difficult, and the ordinary diet is likely to act as an irritant to the digestive tract. A complete account of this disease is given in Vol. I. of Hoare's System of Veterinary Medicine.

Zebra Finch. (Mrs. Alice Chatterton, London, N.): Cause of death, internal haemorrhage, probably from injury inflicted by Java Sparrow. There was no egg-binding. In future, please send letter in separate cover, but put a note having on it your name and address in the box containing the bird.

Cordon Bleu (♂) (Mrs. Sydney Pope, Tiverton, Devon). The cause of death was heart failure, probably due to excitement.

Rose-headed Parrakeet (♂). (W. Shore Baily, Westbury, Wilts) There was rupture of the liver due to amyloid degeneration of that organ

Answered by Post :—A. W. Adams.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S:

◆

Roll of Honour.

Serving with the colours :—

G R. Montague—Westminster Dragoons.

Illustration and Deficit Funds.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations.

	£	s.	d.
Carr, F. J.	0	5	0
Elrill, W.	0	5	0
Fisher, W. H.	0	10	0
Henderson, Mrs. H. F.	0	11	0
Lee, Mrs. E. D.	0	10	0
Montifiore, Mrs. Sebag	0	5	0
Oakey, W.	0	2	6
Pike, L.	0	10	0
Pullar, L. H. F.	0	10	0
Robbins, H.	0	5	0
Scott, Dr. and Mrs. J. Easton	1	0	0
Soames, Rev. H. A.	0	5	0
Strong, H.	0	10	0
Williams, Mrs. C. H.	0	10	0

The Hon. Sec. has had great difficulty in getting through club business of late owing to business pressure. There may possibly be omissions, if so, such will be given next month.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

A. Silver, to The Laurels, 7 Brampton Road, Forest Hill, London, S.E.

J. Frostick, to 303 High Road, Streatham, London, S.W.

J. Weir, to Douglas Cottage, Upper Ashley, New Milton, Hants.

D. Dewar, Accountant General, Bombay, India.

LTERATION OF NAME: "Sir,—Annexed is a copy of a Deed Poll, by which on the 23rd May 1915 I changed my name from Richard Julius Ioffmann to Richard Julius Arnold. My brothers, sister, and I being nglish desire to save ourselves and our descendants from the stigma attached to a German name.

"We have therefore decided to adopt as our surname the second Christian name of our youngest brother who is about to proceed to the Front.

"In future therefore I desire to be known as and intend to subscribe myself.

RICHARD JULIUS ARNOLD.

Tower House, Leigham Court Road,
Streatham, S.W.

[We have not reprinted the Deed of Poll as the above conveys all necessary information.—ED.].

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. A. C. Gant, Willow Hynt, Hellingly, Sussex.
By Dr. L. Lovell-Keays.
P. T. Harvey, 55 St. Albans Road, Seven Kings, Essex.
By the Hon. Editor.

◆

New Members Elected.

Walter Hyde, Kempton Park, Sunbury-on-Thames.

◆

The Bird Market.

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MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

SPECIALLY selected and privately imported rare Australian Parakeets and Small Finches, due about 25th, inst., for particulars see "Cage Birds" after that date.—R. Colton, 9 Birkendale Road, Sheffield.

FOR SALE: Amazon Parrot, 50s.; Burrowing Owl, 15s.; Tame Raven, 25s.; Cock Ring-necked Parrakeet, 15s.—Dawson-Smith, Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford.

FOR SALE: Pair Peach-faced Lovebirds; talking Grey Parrot; Cock Violet-eared Waxbill. WANTED: Parrakeets.—Miss Clare, 94 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED Foreign Doves, in pairs or single.—Mrs. Paget Steavenson, Hurworth, Darlington.

FOR SALE All acclimatised, cage-moulted, exhibition specimens. Breeding pairs Melba Finches, 60s.; Long-tailed Grassfinches, and, Chestnut-breasted Finches, 40s.; Red-headed hen and Ribbon Finch cock, for hybridizing, 15s.; Chinese Siskin, hen, 10s. 6d.; Pectoral and Parson Finches, Long-tailed Grassfinch, 20s. each; Paradise Whydah, hen, 7s. 6d.; Yucatan Jay, 5 guineas; Chinese Dhyal Bird, 50s.; White Blackbird, hen, £5; Waxwing, 50s.; Nightingale, 45s.; Bearded Tits, 25s. pair; Long-tailed Tit, 25s.; Jenny Wren, 25s.; Ceram Lory, rare, 70s.; Cardinal Eclectus hen, £6; Double-fronted Amazon, finest living, £4 4s. "Birds that live on Nestle's Milk" 2d.; "Bird Notes," Vol. I., scarce, 21s.; Gedney's "Foreign Birds," 2 Vols., scarce, 12s. 6d.—John Frostick, 303, High Road, Streatham, S.W. (N.B.—Note change of Address).

D. G. SCHUYL, 12, Toe-Haringvliet, Rotterdam, Holland. Importer and Dealer of Rare Birds. Speciality: Ornamental Waterfowl; White, Black, and Black-necked Swans; rare and common species of Geese and Ducks; Tufted Ducks, Scaups, Smews; various species Teal, etc.

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5489 London Wall.

Telegraphic Address :—
"Oiseaux, London."

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

POST MORTEM REPORTS: None to hand at time of going to press.

THE MAGAZINE: We are pleased to report that Editorial and other General Notes have been crowded out, and the whole issue given up to a series of interesting articles. Will those who have read proofs of articles not included please note that such *will appear in next issue*; also that the arrangement of articles in "Bird Notes" has nothing to do with their intrinsic merits, but is solely governed by diversifying the contents and convenient placing of illustrations.

JUNE NOTICES: The Hon Editor requests a careful re-perusal of these, and he asks for the best help and co-operation that members can give. In the notice re Club Meetings a Printer's error occurs—"but nevertheless has been maintained," should read, *but nevertheless interest has been maintained.*

A BREEDING SUCCESS: Just at the moment of going to Press we learn that our member Dr. Lovell-Keays has young Bearded Reedlings out of the nest. We had the privilege of seeing them on the 11th inst., when they were "going strong." An article will appear in in our next.

CLUB MEETINGS: Two of these will be held in September, the first on Wednesday, September 1st, *Rendezvous,* Small Birds' House at 11-30 a.m., and 2-30 p.m.; the other on Saturday, September 25th, at 2-30 p.m., at same *rendezvous.*

HON. SECRETARY AND CORRESPONDENCE: Owing to the present pressure prevailing in the Banking Business, Mr. Williams finds it impossible to promptly acknowledge the large number of communications received, and he fears some may be overlooked; the pressure appears likely to continue, and for this reason the announcements in this issue are (he fears incomplete; but all omissions will be rectified as early as circumstances permit.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

Roll of Honour.

Killed in Action: Lieut. The Hon. C. Douglas Pennant (husband of Lady Edith Douglas Pennant), on October 29th, but only recently reported. We tender Lady Edith D. Pennant our deepest sympathy.

Mentioned in Dispatches: Captain E. C. Sprawson, R.A.M.C., 3rd Division, British Expeditionary Force.

Illustration and Deficit Funds.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations.

	£	s.	d.
Baily, W. Shore	0	10	6
Bainbridge, Sec.-Lieut. W. A.	0	10	0
Browne, Capt. A. E.	0	5	0
Hincks, Miss M.	0	10	0

New Members Elected.

Mrs. A. Castle-Gant, Willow Hyrst, Hellingley, Sussex.
P. T Harvey, 55 St. Albans-road, Seven Kings, Kent.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. Calvert, c./o. H. Calvert, Deputy Commissioner, Attock District, Campbellpore, India.
By Lieut. G. Kennedy, P.W.N.S. Reg.

T. T. Barnard, Bedford. *By Dr. M. Amsler, sec. by W. T. Page:*

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. *Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum* 6d.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.
Apply to The Publisher, Market Place, Ashbourne

WANTED. No. 1, Vol. I. (1910) of *Bird Notes*. Full published price given for a limited number of copies.- The Publisher, Market Place, **Ashbourne.**

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MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Pairs: Bleeding-Heart Pigeons, 50s.; Aurita Doves, 20s.; Bronze-wing Doves, 40s.; Diamond Doves 30s.; Necklace Doves, 15s.; Rosella Parrakeets, 30s.; Alexandrine Parrakeets, 30s.; cock Alexandrine, tame and talks a little, 20s.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE. Pairs: Red-headed Finches (have reared), 25s.; Zebra Finches, 15s.; 4 young St. Helena Seed-eaters, 30s. lot: all from outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Stanley Gardiner, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge.

FOR SALE: Cocks: Black-headed, and Half-masked Weavers, 10s. each Russ', and Madagascar Weavers, 7s. 6d. each; Madagascar Lovebird, 3s. 6d.; Zebra Finch, 5s.; Golden-breasted Waxbill, 7s. 6d.; hen Pea Dove (*Aurita amabilis*) 15s.; 3 Black-cheeked Lovebirds, 20s. each, or 50s. lot. Pairs: Cutthroats, 7s. 6d.; Bib Finches, 15s.; Red-billed Weavers, 6s.; Avadavats, 7s. 6d.—Captn. Reeve, Glendaragh, Caterham, Surrey.

FOR SALE. Pair Gouldian Finches (breeders), 70s.; young ditto, sex unknown, 22s. 6d.; pair Diamond Sparrows, breeders and winners, 60s.; cock Pintail Whydah, 10s.; all outside over 12 months. —J. Goodchild, Clare, Suffolk.

FOR SALE. Hand-reared Jays 5s.; Jackdaws 3s. 6d.; Beautiful Raven 30s.; Talking Amazon, 63s.; cock Ring-necked Parrakeet, 15s.— —Rectory, Nash. Stony-Stratford.

FOR SALE. Acclimatised Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws, all several times cage-moulted, thoroughly healthy, and in good feather, some talkers, an unique opportunity.—Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham.

FOR SALE: From unheated Garden-aviary, all birds with present owner over 18 months and in perfect condition. Fine pair Mandarin Starlings (incubating), 25s.; Pair Diamond Finches (aviary bred, 1914), 50s.; pair Pekin Robins, 12s. 6d.; pair Diamond Doves and one young in nest, 25s.; cock Yellow Short-winged Weaver, 8s. 6d.; cock Virginian Cardinal, splendid songster, 20s.; Amber and Black Troupial, 20s. Near offer entertained for lot. E W. Wedge, Kingscote, 72 Trinity Road, Wood Green, London, N.

FOR SALE Cock Barraband's Parrakeet, £7; African Fruit Pigeon, 30s.; pair Sand-Grouse, £3; Hangnest, 35s.; Mynah, 25s.; hen Alexandrine Parrakeet, 10s. FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE: 3 Egrets in good condition.—Yealland, Binstead, Isle of Wight.

SMALL CONSIGNMENT of Specially selected Australian Parrakeets for Sale, comprising: Barraband's in pairs and odd cocks; King Parrakeets in full colour; Blue-Bonnet (Red-vented); cock Stanley; cock Crimson-wing; cocks Red-mantled, and Golden-shouldered (Hooded variety): also hen Black Gouldian Finch. (No telegrams). WANTED Seth-Smith's book on Parrakeets. R. Colton, 9 Birkendale Road, Sheffield.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and re-furnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. NEST BARRELS, for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twigy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills, and small Finches.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

D. G. Schuyl, 12, Toe-Haringvliet, Rotterdam, Holland. Importer and Dealer of Rare Birds. Speciality: Ornamental Waterfowl; White, Black, and Black-necked Swans; rare and common species of Geese and Ducks; Tufted Ducks, Scaups, Smews, various species Teal etc.

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"Oiseaux, London."

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Post Mortem Reports: None to hand at time of going to Press.

Club Meetings: Two of these will be held in September at the London Zoo. The first on Wednesday, September 1st, *rendezvous*, Small Birds' House, at 11-30 a.m. and 2-30 p.m.; the other on Saturday, September 25th, at 2-30 p.m., at same *rendezvous*.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor*.
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

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Illustration and Deficit Funds.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Barnaby, Miss	0	2	6
Mason, D.	0	5	0
Sidebottom, Mrs. E. Harrop	0	5	0
Smith, J.	0	5	0
Turner Turner, Mrs.	0	10	0
Wilson, Miss F. M.	0	10	0

◆

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

Harvey, P. T., 55 St. Albans-road, Seven Kings, Essex.
Watts, R J., to "Sunnyside," St. Peter's Road, Huntingdon.
Kennedy, Capt. G., R.M.F., c/o Mrs. Kennedy, 7, Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey.

◆

New Members Elected.

Mrs. Calvert, c/o. H. Calvert, Deputy Commissioner, Attock District, Campbellpore, India.
T. T. Barnard, Kempston Hoo, Bedford.

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Proposed for Election as Member.

W. Yarworth-Jones, Villa d Arno, Albany Park, Kingston-on-Thames.
By W. H. Fisher and the Hon. Editor

The Bird Market.

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MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Cock Guttural Finch, 15s.; cock St. Helena Seed-eater × Linnet Hybrid, 8s. 6d.; cock Grey Singingfinch × Linnet Hybrid 5s. 6d., all from garden aviary; healthy and perfect. Or would exchange for guaranteed hen Green Avadavat.—Miss Chawner, Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants.

FOR SALE: Desert Buzzard (*Buteo desertorum*), perfect, fully acclimatised, 50s.: Talking Panama Amazon Parrot, tame, 60s.—Dawson-Smith, Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, Bucks.

FOR SALE. Cocks—Rosella Parrakeets; Green Cardinal; Blue-throated Warbler; pair Ruficauda Finches; young Redrump Parrakeets; pair Amherst Pheasants; good, talking Grey Parrot; also Italian Greyhound Dog, 9 months, 6lbs., Champion bred. WANTED: Hen Hooded Parrakeet, and others.—Miss L. Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon.

FOR SALE: Cock Weavers in full colour, Russ' 5s., Crimson-crowned 7s. 6d., and Half-masked 7s. 6d.; also cock Yellow-backed Whydah 30s. All from out-door aviary.—Capt. Reeve, Glendaragh, Caterham, Surrey.

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"Oiseaux, London."

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Club Meeting at Zoo: The last of these for this season will take place on Saturday, September 25th: *Rendezvous,* Small Birds' House, 2 p.m., when we hope there will be a good muster.

Condolences: We tender profound sympathy to Mr. Scott Freeland and family in their great bereavement; their eldest son having fallen in action, somewhere in the Gallipoli peninsular.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

◆

Post Mortem Reports.

Hanging Parrakeet (♂). (B. T. Stewart, Radlet). The cause of death was a pernicious anaemia which is nearly always fatal. The bird was a young one.

Hybrid Mealy x Red Rosella. (W. Shore Baily, Wilts.) The cause of death was pneumonia.

Bull-Finch (♂). (Mrs. K. Storey, Tarporley, Cheshire.) The cause of death was anaemia. This species too frequently loses its feathers in confinement especially in cages. It is a parasitic complaint but debility predisposes these creatures to it. Such birds require a variety of food to ward off the malady.

(Miss Alison Barnaby.) The cause of death was apoplexy. No doubt mice caused wound after death.

Chinese Bunting. (Miss D. E. Pithie.) The cause of death was pneumonia which is usually fatal.

St. Thomas's Conure. (W. Shore Baily, Wilts.) Cause of death pernicious anaemia, from which the bird must have been suffering several months.

Bib Finch. (E. Galloway, East Finchley.) The cause of death was a chronic inflammation of the liver.

Zebra Finch (♂). (Mrs. A. Chatterton, Crouch End.) Died from chronic inflammation of the heart.

Purple Sugar Bird. (Lady Katherine Pilkington, Wakefield.) The cause of death was interstitial inflammation of the kidney.

Quail. (J. Charles, Doncaster.) The cause of death was enteritis

QUAIL FINCH. (H. A. Swayne, Dublin.) The cause of death was a septicaemia to which these birds are so subject.

BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRD (♂). (B. Steed, Sudbury, Suffolk.) Cause of death was syncope.

BUDGERIGAR (♂). (G. E. Haggie, Oxford.) Cause of death, purenchymatous nephritis from which these birds often suffer.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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A Marvellous Collection of Tanagers.

Just on the eve of going to press, we had the opportunity of seeing the most unique and comprehensive consignment of Tanagers ever landed. Mr. Walter Goodfellow has been collecting in Ecuador for the past two years for Mr. E. J. Brook, and a really marvellous collection is the result. Details are not possible in this short note, but there are thirty to forty different species, each of which is clad in gorgeous, and iridescent hues, all are in excellent condition, and with very few exceptions *all are new to aviculture.* Parrots, Hangnests, Jays, and rare mammals are also included in the series.—Ed.

◆

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

Miss M. Gerrard to 11 Lung' Arno, Serristori, Florence, Italy.
P. F. M. Galloway to, 22 Rectory Road, Caversham, Reading.
W. O. Montgomery to c.o. Mrs. Hulse, Alexandra Road, Hornsea, E. Yorks.
Mrs. Stella Stoney to 38 Campden House Court, Kensington, London, W.

◆

New Members Elected.

W. Yarworth Jones, Villa d'Arno, Albany Park, Kingston-on-Thames.

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

Capt. S. Wilfred Aston, Manor House, Frensham, Farnham,
By the Hon. Editor and W. Yarworth-Jones.

Lady Greenall, Walton Hall, Nr. Warrington.
By Mrs. M. H. Davies and the Hon. Editor.

Constance Lady Hanson, 4 Bryanston Square, London, W.
By Sec.-Lieut. W. A. Bainbridge and the Hon. Editor.

Mrs. Burgess, Kingsweir, 52 Clarendon Road, Redlands, Bristol.
By S. Williams, Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.

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FOR SALE: Cocks: Yellow-backed Whydah, 20s., Cutthroat, 3s., Zebra Finch, 2s. 6d., Red-billed Weaver, 5s., hen Golden-breasted Waxbill; 2s. 6d.; pairs: Bib Finches, 10s., Madagascar Weavers 10s. All acclimatised and healthy birds.—Captain Reeve, Glendaragh, Caterham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Artistic Belgian Bird-cage, with stand.—Call, Penkenna, 607 Finchley Road, London, N.W.

FOR SALE: Pair Brown-eared Conures (*Conurus ocularis*) 30s.; pairs: Bronze-wing Doves 40s., Necklace Doves, 15s.; all bred here.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: One hen 1914 Black-cheeked Lovebird, and one 1915 young one, 40s., the two, both healthy; would exchange for Diamond Doves.—Mrs. Cartwright, Bretton West, Wakefield.

WANTED: All Blue Macaws; Hyacinthine, Glaucous, Lears, Spix's, and Green Macaws. Black Cockatoos; Ganga Cockatoos; Eclectus, Kea, Ka-Ka, and Black Parrots. Guilding's and other large Parrots; Golden Conures; Solstitian Conures; rare Parrakeets; and rare Australian Pigeons.—Albert Edward Jamrach, 180 St. George's Street, East, near Mark Lane Station and the Tower.

PAIR of Senegal Parrots, thoroughly acclimatised, 18 months with me, 50s. pair. Hon. Secretary, Oakleigh, 110 Riverway, Palmers Green, N.

FOR SALE: Pairs; Peach-faced Lovebirds, Amherst Pheasants, and Ruficauda Finches. Cocks: Green, and Scarlet Cardinals, Zebra Finches, Rosella Parrakeet, and Gold-fronted Fruitsucker—Miss Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon.

FOR SALE: True pair Crimson-ringed Whydah, True pair Brown-capped Firefinches; imported from Africa two months ago.—E. W. Harper, 6 Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and re-furnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. NEST BARRELS, for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twiggy branch, make excellent shelters for Birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills, and small Finches.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey

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The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

ERRATUM: In the last Notice last month: "Peninsular" should be Peninsula.

BREEDING MEDALS: The following species have been bred, we think for the first time in the British Isles:

SPECIES:—

Taha Weavers (*Pyromelana taha*)—W. Shore Baily.
Brown-eared Conures (*Conurus ocularis*)—W. Shore Baily.
Black Seed-Finch (*Melopyrrha nigra*)—W. Shore Baily.
Bearded Tit (*Panurus biarmicus*)—Dr. L. Lovell-Keays.
African White-eye (*Zosterops virens*)—Dr. L. Lovell-Keays.
Melba Finch (*Pytelia melba*)—H. Wilford.
Jardine's Pigmy Owl (*Glaucidium jardinii*)—Miss E. F. Chawner.
Orchard Finch (*Phrygilus fruticeti*)—Dr. M. Amsler.
*Occipital Blue-Pie (*Urocissa occipitalis*)—Dr. M. Amsler.

[*We hear a rumour that this species was bred in Lord Lilford's aviaries about two years ago. Inquiries are being made.]

HYBRIDS:

Indigo × Nonpareil Buntings (*Cyanospiza cyanea* × *C. ciris*)—B. C. Thomasset.

All the records re above have either appeared or the copy is in our hands awaiting publication. We congratulate the above members on their successes. After examination and confirmation by the Awards' Committee the medals will be distributed in due course.

NEW MEMBERS: In spite of these terrible war-times, quite a good number have joined the Club during the year. There is yet, however, unlimited scope for extending our roll, and we press this matter upon the attention of each individual member.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules, see Page 2 of cover.

Superb Tanager (G. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). The liver was affected with chronic inflammation, which had been slowly progressing.

Zebra Finch ♀ (Mrs. Burgess, Bristol). The cause of death was a ruptured liver, probably caused by some violence from the Cutthroats.

Gouldian Finch (J. Goodchild, Suffolk). The cause of death was acute yellow atrophy of the liver.

Black-crested Green-Bulbul (Mrs. G. Christie, Elgin). The cause of death was pneumonia.

Gold-breasted Waxbill (P. T. Harvey, Seven Kings.) The cause of death was pneumonia. The loss of feathers on head was due to a mite—a feather-eating mite. A weak lotion of sulphurated potash, brushed on the part daily, would have destroyed the mite and allowed the feathers to grow again.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

The Committee tender best thanks for the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Hebb, T.	0	10	0
Morison, the Hon. Mrs. McLaren	0	5	0
Perreau, Major G. A.	0	11	0
Rumsey, Lacey	1	0	0

Proposed for Election as Members.

C F. Crow; Lindsey Bank House, Grimsby.
By E. E. Bentley and A. Sutcliffe.

E. R. Phillips, 12 Waltham Terrace, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
By G. W. E. Low.

A. H Scott, Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants. *By S. M. Townsend*

Lieut. W. R Batty; 16th Cheshire Regt., Draycott Camp, Swindon, Wilts, and 15 Alexandra Road Southport. *By Sergt. R. Suggitt.*

Mrs. F. M. Naylor; "Vermont," Grappenhall, Warrington.
By the Hon. Editor.

Mr. McDonald, Atholl Arms Hotel, Blair Atholl, N.B.
By W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

New Members Elected.

Capt. S. Wilfred Aston, Manor House, Frensham, Farnham.
Lady Greenall, Walton Hall, Nr. Warrington.
Constance Lady Hanson, 4 Bryanston Square, London, W.
Mrs. Burgess, Kingsweir, 52 Clarendon Road, Redlands, Bristol.

The Show Season.

At the commencement of this season, the Show Committee decided that it would be fairer, not to put the Provincial Cup up for competition this year, as so many Societies were not holding their Open Shows, so that competition for it would not be general.

We have had applications for patronage from Bradford, Sheffield, and Manchester Bradford have since cancelled their Show; Sheffield's classification was not approved by the Show Committee I believe they have since altered it but have not let me know. Manchester was granted a Silver Medal, as they always were before the Provincial Cup was started, but they refused it as "paltry."

The great Show at the Horticultural Hall is to be held in December, and I shall be glad to hear from any Member, who will kindly give a Special Prize, to be confined to our Members.

Members are requested to read carefully through the revised Medal and Cup rules, which are printed in this number.

S. M. TOWNSEND.
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

3 Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

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Rules Governing Club's Patronage at Shows.

1. The patronage of the F.B.C. is given at all open Shows, provided the following conditions are observed:

(a) At least three classes must be provided for Foreign Birds (excluding local and members' classes, in which no bird competing for F.B.C patronage may be shown.

(b) The classification, and name of the judge, must be submitted by show secretaries, when applying for patronage.

(c) Those societies obtaining patronage, must print in the schedule that the section is under the patronage of the F.B.C.

(d) That no alteration (amalgamation or cancellation) of classes must be made, or the judges changed without giving notice to the Hon. Show Secretary of the F.B.C., in which case original patronage does not hold good.

2. All Medals are awarded to best birds (but the Committee have the right to award extra medals for special purposes) and no silver medal is granted where less than six classes are provided.

3. Members of the F. B C. must place F.B.C. after each entry on entry forms and should request Show Secretaries to print these initials in their catalogues.

4. No Member can win more than two medals in a season, *i.e.*, 1 silver and 1 bronze, or more than one medal at the same show.

5. The London Silver Cup is offered for competition at all Shows under patronage in the London Postal District, where ten or more classes

are given and the Provincial Silver Cup at Shows outside this area. Where six or more classes are given; and both are awarded for most points gained throughout the season by nominated birds.

6. These Cups become the property of those who have won them three times (not necessarily in succession), and only three birds at each Show can be nominated, which is done by writing the word "Cup" after the entries on entry form. If members nominate more than three birds they will be disqualified for that Show.

7. These conditions only hold good where Show Societies and Members observe the rules. Failure to conform to them annuls all offers, and the birds of Members whose subscription is unpaid at time of making an entry are ineligible to compete.

8. Points for the Cup to count as follows: 1st, 7 points; 2nd, 6 points, and one point off for each lower award. Should a tie take place, the Member taking the most prize money to win.

9. Any item not herein provided for, may be dealt with, at the discretion of the Show Committee.

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The Bird Market.

*Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: **Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum** 4d. **Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum** 6d.*

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

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MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Landrails, perfect condition, 10s. 6d. each, 20s. pair; Californian Quail, guaranteed unrelated pairs, 15s., early hatched 10s.; later hatched under Silkies, 5s. each. Red-vented Bulbuls 7s. 6d.; hybrid cock Little Black × Black Tanager 10s. All above aviary-bred this season. Silkie and Belgium Bantams and crosses.—Rattigan, Stonehouse, Glos.

FOR SALE. Lovely Sebastopol Geese, with wavy feathers, suitable for lake or pets.—Mrs. Gant, Hellingly, Sussex.

FOR SALE: Australian Bronze-wing Dove, also 3 White Java Doves, cheap.—Mrs Paget-Steavenson, Hurworth, Darlington.

FOR SALE Pairs: Canaries, breeders, 7s. 6d.; Zebra Finches 8s. 6d.; cock Sulphury Seed-eater, fine songster, 10s. 6d.; hen Dwarf Weaver, 10s.; hen Pileated Finch, 10s. WANTED: cock Sikhim Siskin and hen Blossom-headed Parrakeet, exchange opposite sex.—W. Shore-Baily Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FINE Tui Parrakeet, offers in Budgerigars requested.—S. Watson, Tithebarn Street, Preston.

FOR SALE 3 Gouldian Finches, 20s. each; 2 Diamond Doves, 12s. 6d. each, 2 Brush Bronze-wing Pigeons, 15s. each; all 1915 birds and in out-door aviary.—B. Thomasset, Ashmansworth, near Newbury.

FOR SALE. Acclimatised pair of Brown's Parrakeets, £10; pair of Pennant's Parrakeets, £5; also fine pair of Lion or Golden Marmozetts, had young two years, £10.—Hebb, Brooklea, Downs, Luton.

FOR SALE Mealy Amazon, Panama Amazon, cock Ring-neck Parrakeet, Indigo Buntings, Desert Buzzard; cheap to good homes.—Rectory, Nash, Stony-Stratford.

FOR SALE. Zebra Finches, 8s. 6d pair; hen 6s. 6d.; cock Ruficauda Finch, 25s., pair Nightingales 42s.; cock Diamond Dove, 15s.; Fantail Pigeons, 4s. pair; hen Button Quail, 20s. or would exchange for cock. All acclimatised and in outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Bainbridge, Hazelwood, Thorpe, Surrey.

WANTED. All Blue Macaws; Hyacinthine, Glaucous, Lear's, Spix's, and Green Macaws; Black Cockatoos; Ganga Cockatoos; Eclectus, Kea, Ka-Ka, and Black Parrots, Guilding's and other large Parrots; Golden Conures, Solstitian Conures; rare Parrakeets; and rare Australian Pigeons.—Albert Edward Jamrach, 180 St. George's Street, East, near Mark Lane Station and the Tower.

FOR SALE. One hen Zebra Finch, 8s. 6d.; 2 cock Zebra Finches, 4s. each, or 14s. 6d. the lot, from out-door aviary. Miss Lucas, Bramblehurst, East Grinstead, Sussex.

FOR SALE: Cocks, Barnard's Red-rump, Crimson-wing, Rosella, Green Cardinal, Zebra Finches or exchange for hens. WANTED: Hens, Plum-headed, Blossom-headed, and Bourke's Parrakeets. FOR SALE: true pair Peach-faced Lovebirds, and cock Amherst Pheasant. Will exchange for small birds.—Miss Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

FOR SALE A few choice Australian Parrakeets for sale *shortly*, comprising one pair Blue-wings; one pair Barraband's; one pair Red-vented Blue-Bonnets. Also odd cocks of the following: Stanley, King Barraband's, Crimson-wing; and one hen Pennant. Most of them steady and in full colour. Also Plum-headed (Cherry) Finches, 32s. 6d. a pair; one hen Black-headed Gouldian Finch, 25s. 6d.; cock Bicheno 18s 6d.; one Masked Grassfinch, 18s. 6d.—R. Colton, 9 Birkendale Road, Sheffield.

FOR SALE: Australian Parrakeets, direct consignment; 20 Pennants' and Rosellas glorious adult full-coloured birds, magnificent Pennant's, 50s.; Rosellas, 40s. each. Acclimatised Red-rump 45s.; Cockateel, 10s. 6d.; King show condition, £10; Peach-faced Lovebirds, from out-door aviary, cost £8 last season, price £4 10s. pair; talking Indian Ring-neck, tame 50s.; hen Cardinal Eclectus £6; Double-fronted Amazon £4 10s.; Ceram Lory, very scarce, 70s.; Yucatan Jay, very rare, £5 5s.; White Blackbird, £5 5s.; Chinese Dhyal Bird 50s.; Nightingale 45s.; Long-tailed Tit 25s.; Jenny Wren 25s.; hen Chinese Siskin, 12s. 6d.; Pectoral Finch 20s.; Ribbon Finch 3s. 6d.; "Birds that live on Nestle's Milk," illustrated magazine article, 2d.—John Frostick, Hampton House, 303 High Road, Streatham Common, S.W.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and re-furnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. NEST BARRELS, for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twigy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills, and small Finches.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

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Telegraphic Address:—
"Oiseaux, London."

NOVEMBER, 1915.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Council: As several of the Council are serving with the Colours, and our rules permit of a Council of twenty-four, Mr. W. Shore Baily is nominated therefore so as to bring the Council up to full strength.

Messrs. R. Suggitt and W. R. Temple retire by seniority, but are eligible for re-election.

Breeding Medals: From the list given in our notice in last issue two must be deleted, viz.: The Occipital Blue-Pie and the Bearded Tit, both of which were bred previously, but never recorded. This should surely make clear to all the importance of recording the various successes, episodes, etc., which take place in their aviaries—had this been done, a keen disappointment would have been spared the members concerned, though the members generally will greatly appreciate the interesting and informative accounts, we have had from the pens of Dr. Amsler and Dr. Lovell-Keays about their success with these two species. Naturally the gentlemen concerned would have preferred to have devoted their efforts to other species and the fact of Occipital Blue-Pies and Bearded Tits having been bred before been made public, as it should have been. To the list must be added:—The Chinese Greenfinch (*Chloris sinica*) W. Shore-Baily. An article will appear in our next issue.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor*.
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

◆

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules, see Page 2 of cover.

Pink-cheek Waxbill ♀, and Avadavat ♀ (P. T. Harvey, Seven Kings, Essex). Both died from acute congestion of the lungs, which is not rare in acclimatised birds at this time of the year. A very low temperature, not accompanied by wet, does not do so much harm as chilly wet weather. Birds withstanding a prolonged frost and snow often succumb at the thaw. In bird-keeping one must hope for the best while expecting the worst. It is full of charms as well as disappointments.

Java Sparrow (Mrs. Baker, Swinton, Yorks). The cause of death was pneumonia..

Cordon Bleu ♀ (Miss K. Webb, Cambridge). The cause of death was entiritis. It is not infectious.

Orange-headed Ground-Thrush (G. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, chronic inflammation of liver.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S

The Show Season.

THE HORTICULTURAL HALL BIRD SHOW: We much regret to state that owing to police regulations *re* lighting, the Show has had to be abandoned.

S. M. TOWNSEND, *Hon. Exhibitional Sec.*
3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W.

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

The Committee tender best thanks for the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Dyott, Capt. R. A.,	0	5	0
Edmunds, W.	0	5	0
"Proceeds of Sale of Gambian Birds with the Law's assistance," from E.H.	3	6	6
Kennedy, Capt. G.	1	2	6
McDonagh, Dr. J. E. R.	2	2	0

New Members Elected.

C. F. Crow; Lindsey Bank House, Grimsby.
E. R. Phillips, 12 Waltham Terrace, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
A. H. Scott, Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants.
Lieut. W. R. Batty; 16th Cheshire Regt., Draycott Camp, Swindon, Wilts; and 15 Alexandra Road, Southport.
Mrs. F. M. Naylor; "Vermont," Grappenhall, Warrington.
Mr. McDonald, Atholl Arms Hotel, Blair Atholl, N.B.

Proposed for Election as Members.

H. B. Rathborne, Dreenan, Letter, Co. Fermanagh. *By G. E. Low.*
Mrs. A. M. Armstrong, Newton Purcell Rectory, Buckingham.
Miss M. Horton, Mascalls, Brentwood, Essex. *By the Hon. Editor.*

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

The Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke, to 75 Gloucester Place, London, W.
A. L. Tracy, to "Thalassa," Shaldon, Teignmouth; S. Devon.

The Bird Market.

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MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

ERRATUM: In last issue, on page 58, advert. 3, there was an error owing to a misreading of copy: "Also a fine pair of Lion or Golden Marmozetts, had young two years," the latter part of this sentence should read had young *this* year.—ED.

FOR SALE.—Pairs: Saffron Finches, 8s. 6d.; Zebra Finches, 8s. 6d.; Canaries, 7s. 6d.; and Necklace Doves, 10s.; odd Cocks, Fieldfare, 10s.; Abyssinian Weaver, 10s.; Black-headed Weaver, 7s. 6d.; Rufous-necked Weaver, 10s.; and Sulphury Seed-eater, 10s. 6d.—Wm. Shore Bailey, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE. One pair and one odd Cock Stanley Parrakeets, own breeding, splendid condition.—J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

FOR SALE. Box of Breeding Mealworms, many thousands, price estimated by purchaser, if member.—Mrs. Davidson, Yew Tree Cottage, Bitterne; Hants.

FOR SALE. Beautiful rare Amazon (species unknown), 4 guineas; Panama Amazon; 3 guineas; Mealy Amazon, 3 guineas; Desert Buzzard, 3 guineas; pair very fine Runts, 10s. 6d.—Rectory, Nash, Stony-Stratford.

FOR SALE: White Java Sparrows, winners, 15s. 6d.; Bluethroat, moulted perfect; 30s.; Cordon Bleus, 2nd Clapham.—Shipton, 71 Cloudesdale Road, Balham, S.W.

FOR SALE: Few Copies "Bird Notes," "Avicultural Magazine," and "The Ibis"; in good condition, half published price.—E. W. Harper, 6 Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

FOR SALE: Owing to the temporary closing of my aviaries, all my acclimatised birds are for disposal, all in perfect health and plumage, unless otherwise stated. DOVES: 3 Aust. Crested, 40s. lot; pair Bronze-necks, 15s. Ring-neck and White Java, 2s. 6d. pair; Senegal Doves, 15s. pair; Bronze-wing Doves, 30s. pair; 3 Bleeding Hearts (believed 2 cocks and 1 hen), £6 lot; 3 Zebras, 15s. lot; Harlequin Doves 15s. pair; 1 each Indian and Australian Green-wings, 20s. each. PIGEONS: 1 Great Crowned, and 1 Victorian Crowned, £5 each. PHEASANTS: Cock Impeyan, £7; cock Reeve's, in full plumage, 20s.; pair Swinhoe's, 40s.; pair Elliot's, 30s.; cock Amherst, pure; 15s.; cock Silver, wing injured, 7s. 6d.; cock Golden, pure, 7s. 6d.; hybrid Golden x Amherst, and Amherst x Golden, 7s. 6d. each. MACAWS: 1 Crimson, very tame, on perch, £4; 1 Scarlet and Yellow, £4; 1 Crimson and Blue head bare, £2; true pair, have laid eggs, Blue and Yellow, £7. PARRAKEETS: pair Rossellas, have reared young, 70s.; 2 young Rosellas, this year's birds, 30s. lot; 1 Rosella, 1914 bird; 21s.; pair Jendayas, £4; pair Half-moon, 40s.; cock Half-moon, 20s.; cock Stanley; tail imperfect, 40s.; Yellow-naped, believed cock, 80s.; pair Pennants', 80s.; cock Ring-neck 30s.; cock Pennant's and hen Rosella, have reared hybrids, 80s.; pair Ring-neck, 40s.; hybrid Pennant's x Rosella, 40s.; Cockateels, 15s. pair. PARROTS: White-fronted Amazon, £5; Red-sided Eclectus, £4; Senegal, 20s.; Blue-fronted Amazon, laughs and talks, in cage, £3; Jardine's (?), £3. COCKATOOS: Small Yellow and White, believed hen, £3; Roseate (believed cock), 30s. LOVEBIRDS: Pair Black-faced, 60s. DUCKS: pair Mandarins, 42s.; pair Formosan Teal, 17s.; pair Ruddy Sheldrakes, 20s.; Carolina Drake, 20s. ETC.: Pair Pekin Robins, 15s.; Hartz Mount. Canaries, 6s. pair; Californian Quail, 25s. pair.—Mrs. Lee, Hartwell House, Aylesbury.

WANTED: Cordon Bleu and Olive Finch hens. FOR SALE: Cock Diamond Dove, 12s. 6d.—Miss Webb, Emery Down, Millington Road; Cambridge.

WANTED. Masked Dove (hen), Small Turtle Dove (cock).—Mrs. Pagett-Steavenson, Hurworth, Darlington.

SIX pairs fine Norwich Canaries, mostly Bulldog strain, 13s. pair, £3 3s. lot, or exchange true pair Peach-faced Lovebirds.—Scott, Liphook.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and re-furnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. NEST BARRELS, for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twigy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills, and small Finches.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

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DECEMBER, 1915.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

OUR INDICES: Owing to labour difficulties arising out of war-times, we are not issuing the Indices of Latin and English Names till later; but the index to "Subjects" has been made a little fuller, and will, in the meantime, suffice for ready reference. Anyone wanting to look up a particular bird, not given in the index, must turn up BIRD LISTS (under B and L.) in the index and run through them—all birds named in the volume, to which a paragraph is given, are named separately, all others, and they are legion, will be found by turning up the Bird Lists.

THANKS: The Hon. Editor tenders appreciative thanks to Mr. E. F. M. Elms, for valued assistance in the titling of photos and drawing of ground plans, which have appeared in the last half of this volume.

THE NEW VOLUME: It will not be wise to make any definite pronouncement regarding this, as we shall have to be guided entirely by events as the year proceeds. We expect and hope to go forward on similar lines as in the current volume,—we have some interesting copy in hand, but we need, so as to vary contents, to receive from members, especially from those who have not yet sent any in, articles on the "Episodes in their Aviaries" during the past season, and the lessons learned therefrom. A generous response is hoped for.

THE SECRETARY AND CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary regrets, that during the past year he has not been able to acknowledge as promptly as usual the communications and remittances received—the pressure in the banking business has been so severe that at times communications have had to lie by for a full week untouched, and then be dealt with as time permitted—the same pressure still continues and he asks the indulgence of members when delay occurs, and to accept the above explanation.

CO-OPERATION: In Societies such as ours nothing is achieved without it—the coming year is sure to present many difficulties and we press for the hearty co-operation of all. By it the present year has been brought to a successful close, and the coming year, notwithstanding the "times," will also be one of progress and practical usefulness, if similar co-operation be maintained. We would, however, point out, that if such is to be the case, it must be unstintedly given in every phase of the club's work,—*i.e.*, making the club known, and introducing new members, prompt remittance of subscriptions, writing articles for the Magazine, helping the Deficit Fund, etc.—on the extent to which such co-operation is given the record of the coming year will depend.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

Obituary.

On Saturday, November 13th, the Mother of our esteemed Editor passed away very suddenly. The Members will, I am sure, join me in an expression of deep sympathy with Mr. Page and his family in their sad bereavement.—S. Williams, Hon. Sec.

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

The Committee tender best thanks for the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Bright, H.	1	1	0
Harris, C.	0	5	0
Horsburgh, Lt.-Col. Boyd	1	10	0
Rowe, Lt.-Col. Fisher	0	10	0

New Members Elected.

H. B. Rathborne, Dreenan, Letter, Co. Fermanagh.
Mrs. A. M. Armstrong, Newton Purcell Rectory, Buckingham.
Miss M. Horton, Mascalls, Brentwood, Essex.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Miss M. N. de Freville, Quennevais House, Jersey, *By the Hon. Editor.*

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

G. E. Rattigan, to "Fron-Felen," Caersws, Montgomeryshire.

O. Millsum, to 79, Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Margate

D. Dewar, I.C.S., F.Z.S., to 33, Sheepcote Road, Harrow

Mrs. H. Calvert, to The Ridge, Kasuli, Punjab, India.

The Hon Mrs McLaren Morrison, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James' Park, London, S.W.

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FOR SALE. A Handson all-brass cage for Lovebirds, in new condition, 20s. or near offer.—Miss Horton, Mascalls, Brentwood, Essex.

FOR SALE "Bird Notes," New Series, Vols. IV., V. and VI., in perfect condition, or would exchange for Hens: Firefinch, Zebra Finch, and Blue-winged Lovebird.—Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

FOR SALE. Christmas Presents. Beautiful Panama Amazon, 3 guineas; very fine Mealy Amazon, 50s. 6d.; handsome pair Runts, 10s. 6d.; extremely rare Desert Buzzard, 42s.—Rectory, Nash, Stony-Stratford.

FOR SALE. Rosella Parrakeet; cocks: Green Cardinal and Zebra Finches; also Italian Greyhounds, champion bred.—Miss Clare, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED: Australian Bronze-wing Dove (hen), also Masked ditto.—Mrs. Paget-Steavenson, Hurworth, Darlington.

WANTED Hen Cordon Bleu, and pair of Red Avadavats, for cash or in exchange for two young Bronze-wing Mannikins, and one adult cock. Turner Tremadoc, Newton Abbot.

WANTED White-browed Amazon; good Grey Parrot. Hens: Plum-head, Blossom-head and Blue-bonnet Parrakeets; also, cock Great-billed Parrakeet.—Miss Clare, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED. Good, tame, singing Shama.- Apply in first instance, Editor, "Bird Notes."

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and re-furnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. NEST BARRELS, for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twiggy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills, and small Finches.—Apply. W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

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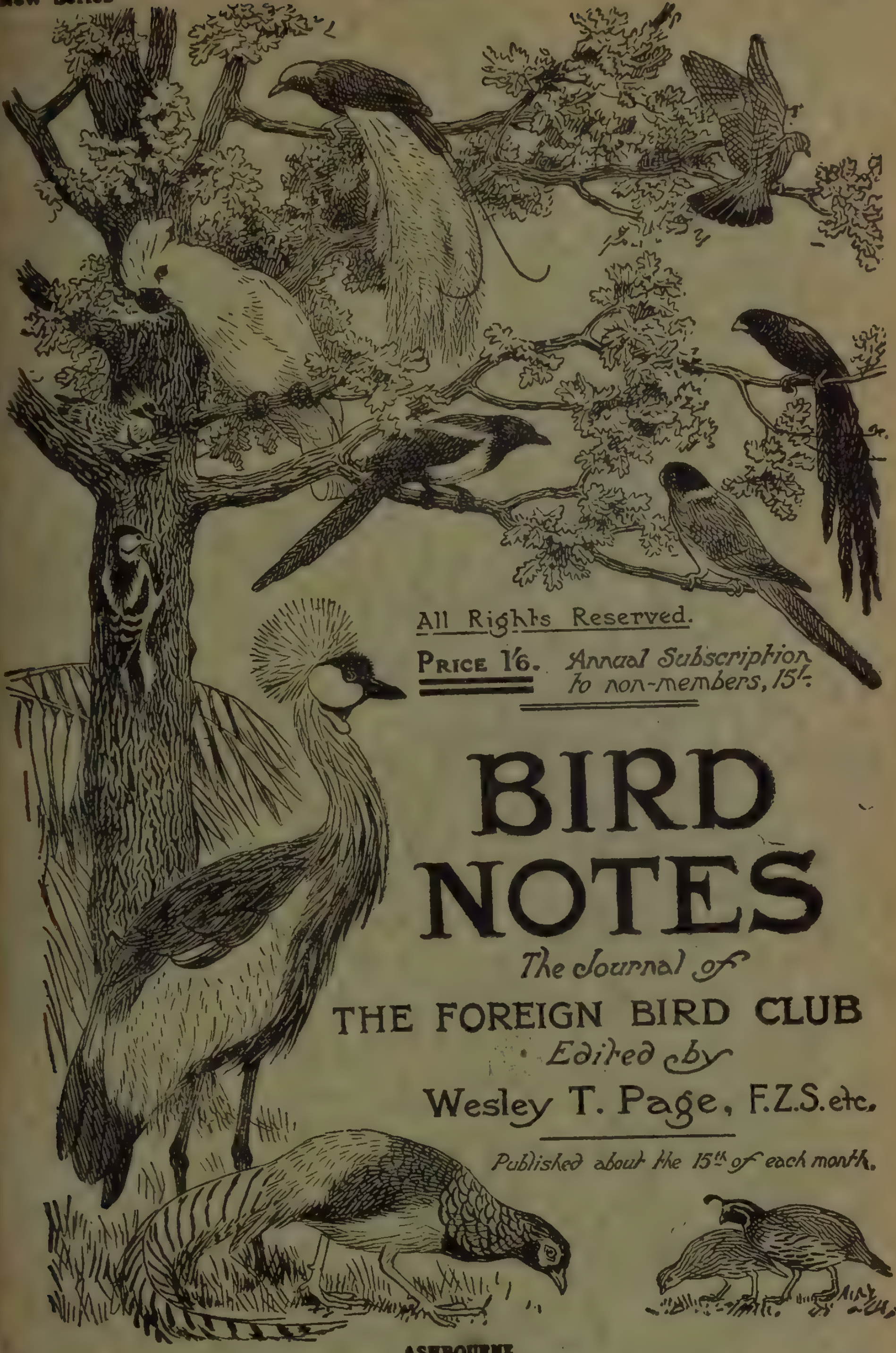

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BIRD NOTES

The Journal of

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Edited by
Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S. etc.

Published about the 15th of each month.

ASHBOURNE
Printed and Published by J. H. HENSTOCK, Avian Press

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Post Mortem Reports.

The conditions upon which these will be made by Mr. HY. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, London, W., are as follows:—

(1) The birds must be sent *immediately* after death.

(2) They *must* be packed in a box.

(3) *The Letter accompanying them must* NOT *be placed in the box along with the bird.*

(N.B.—Unless the above conditions are complied with the packages will be destroyed without examination).

(4) The letter must detail *as far as possible* all particulars as to—

- (*a*) Date of death.
- (*b*) Length of illness.
- (*c*) Symptoms of illness.
- (*d*) Lodgment and feeding of birds, and
- (*e*) Especially as to whether egg food or inga seed has been given.

(5) The work will be done gratuitously, and a report published in *Bird Notes, but under no circumstances whatever will a report be sent by post unless a fee of* 2s. 6d. *accompanies the letter and bird.* Pressure of work compels Mr. Gray to make this an invariable rule, and it applies to all Members, whether they are personally acquainted with him or not.

MEMORANDA FOR MEMBERS.

Annual Subscription to Members 10s., due on the 1st of January in each year.

A New Volume commences every January.

All Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, SIDNEY WILLIAMS, F.Z.S., Holland Lodge, Edmonton, London, N.

All dead birds for *post mortem* examinations should be sent to H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, London, W.

All MSS. for publication in *Bird Notes*, and Books for Review, Proposals for New Members, Advertisements for "The Bird Market," and claims for Breeding Medals, should be sent to the Hon. Editor, W. T. PAGE, F.Z.S., etc., Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

All enquiries as to the treatment of Birds should be sent to the following gentlemen: Parrots and Parrakeets, H. T. Camps, F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Isle of Ely; Insectivorous, Frugivorous, and Small Seed-eating Birds, W. T. Page, F.Z.S., Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

*** *All Letters referring to the above identification of birds must contain a penny stamp for reply.*

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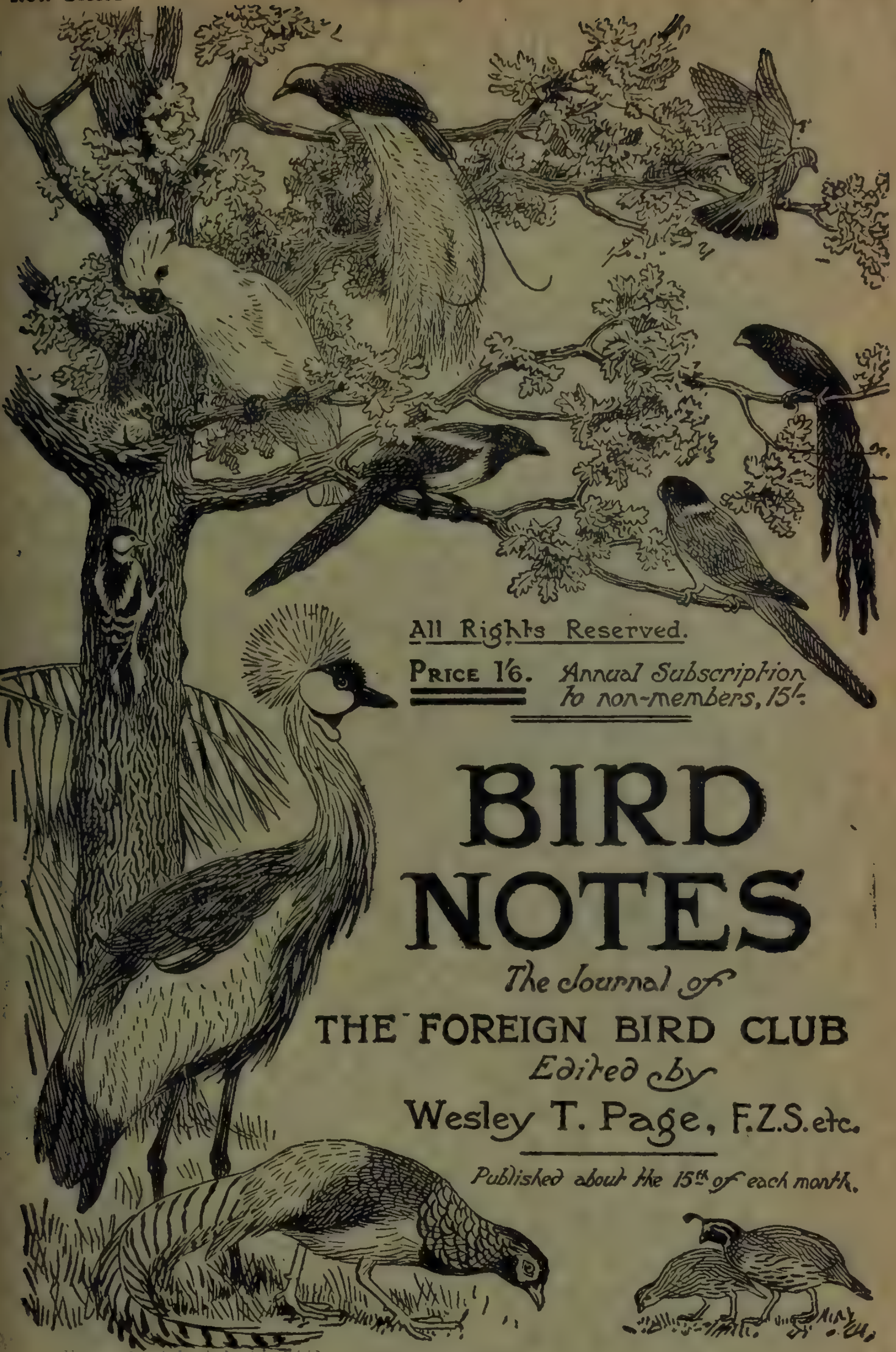

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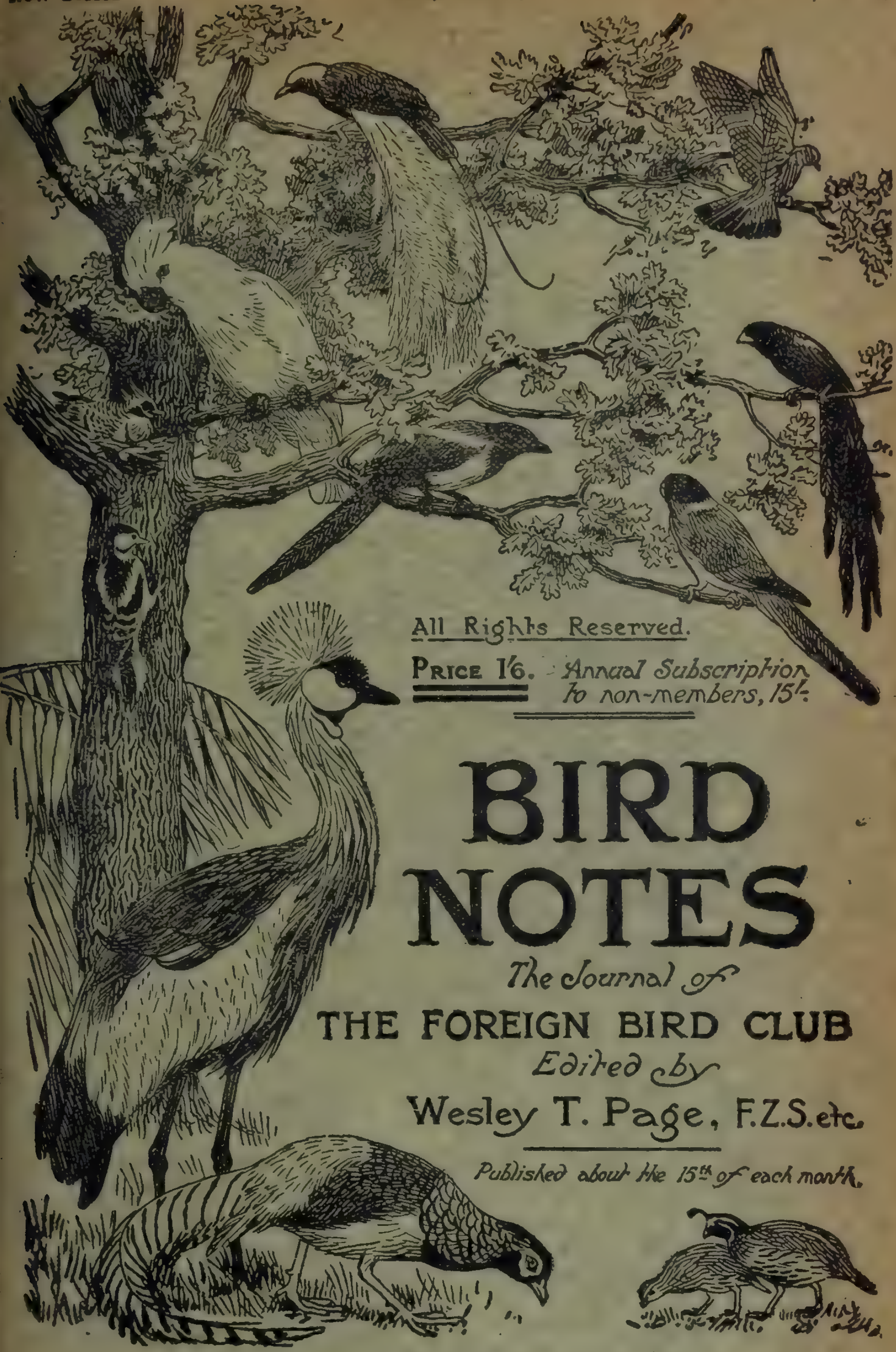

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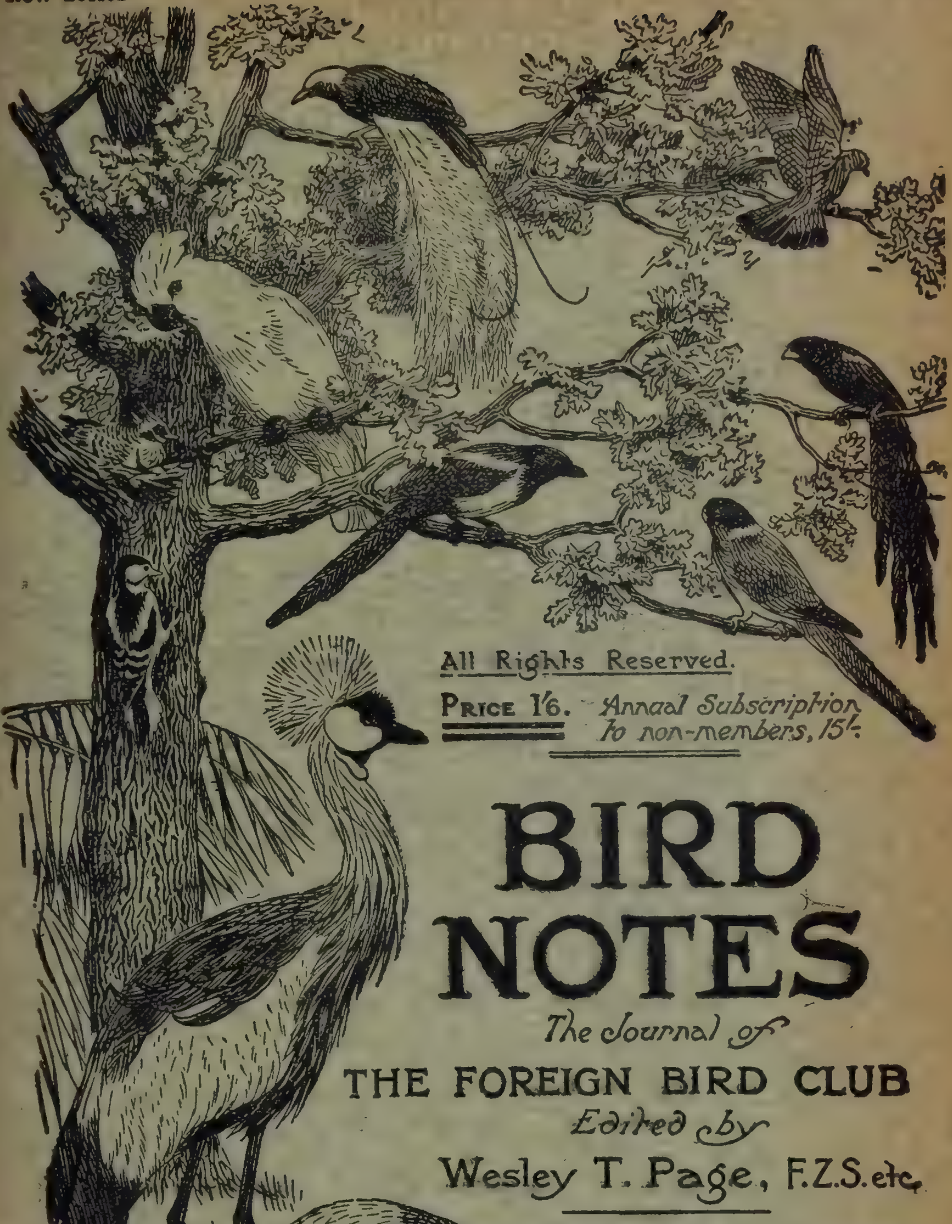

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Published about the 15th of each month

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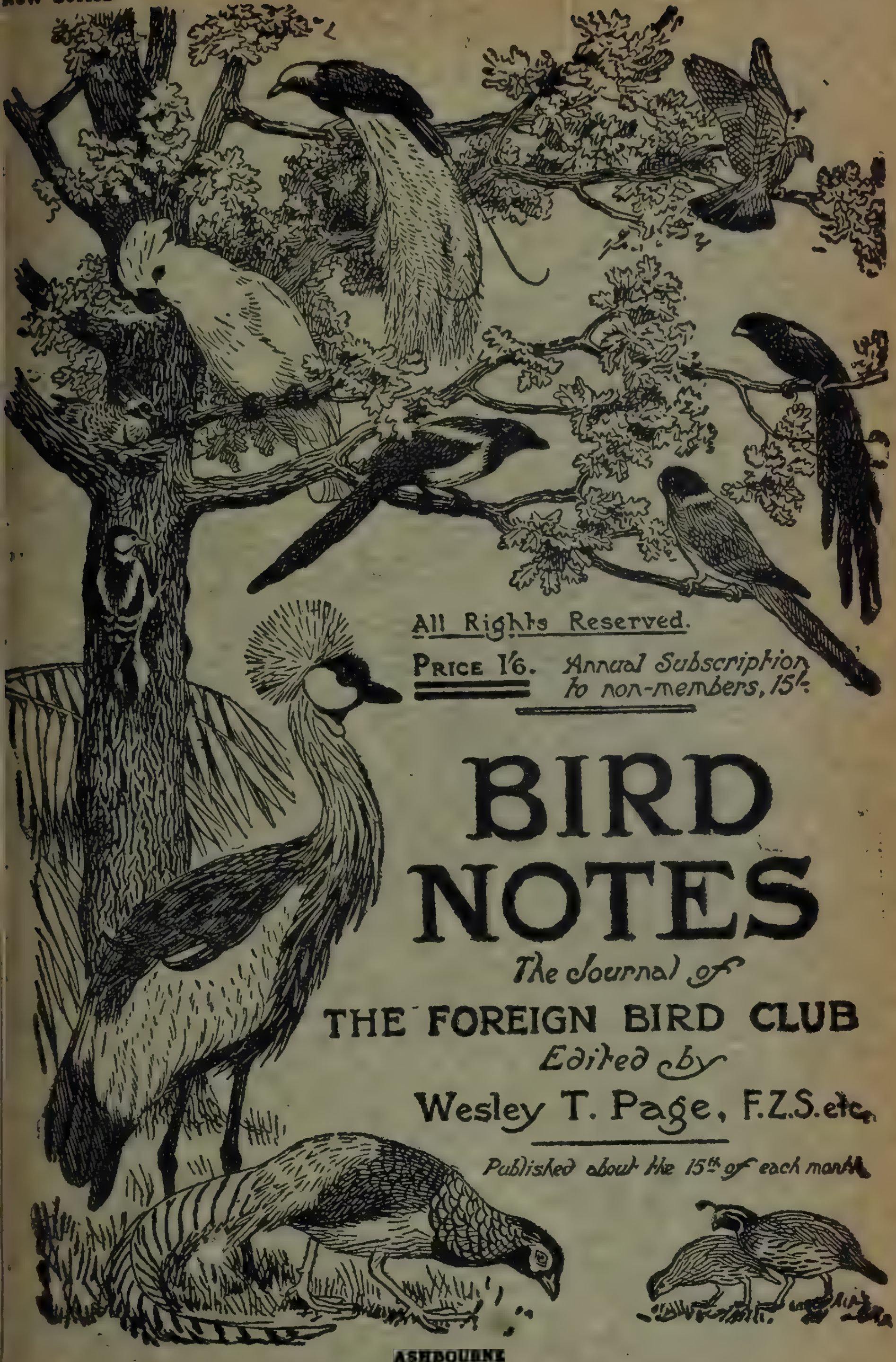

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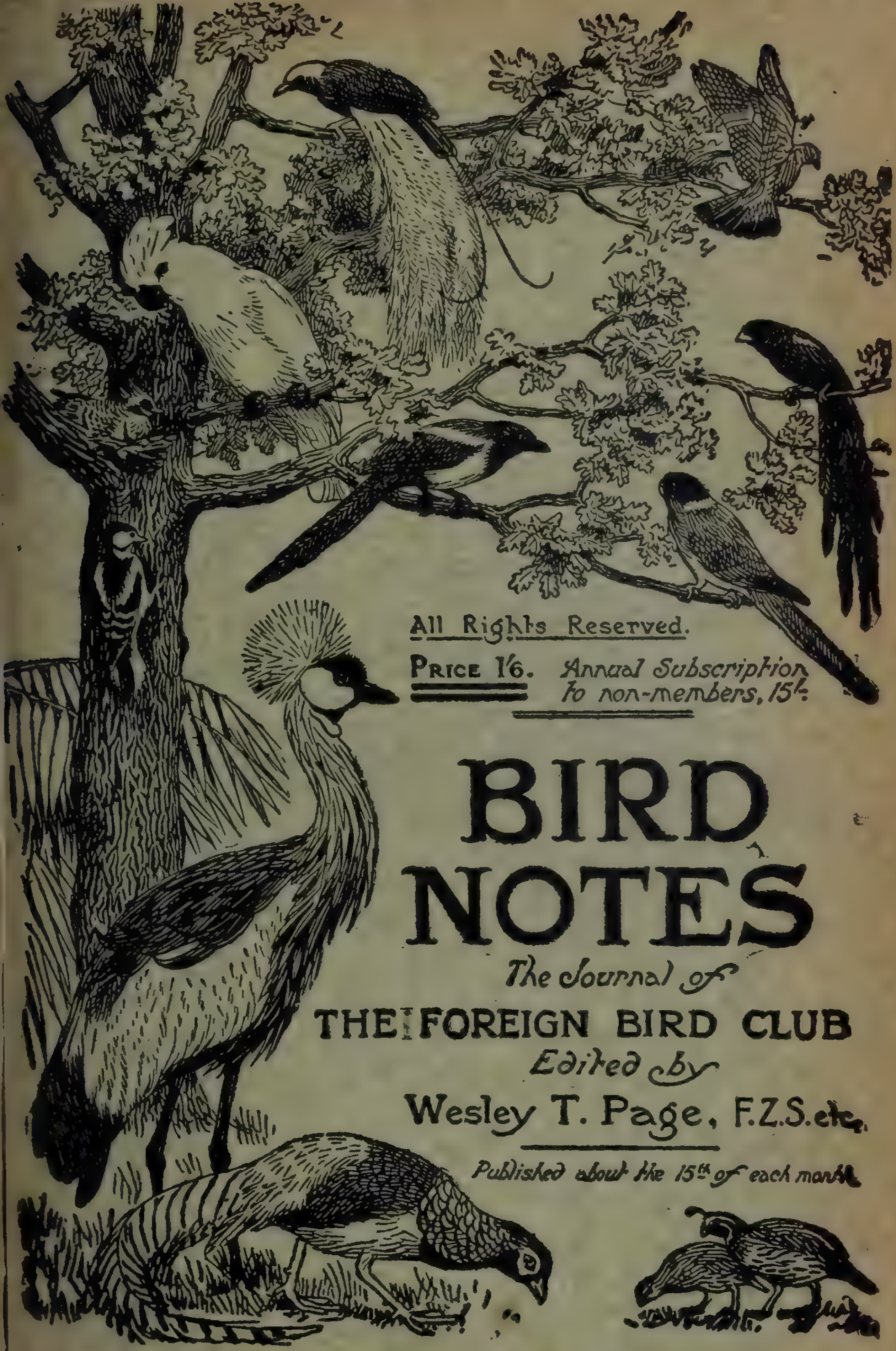

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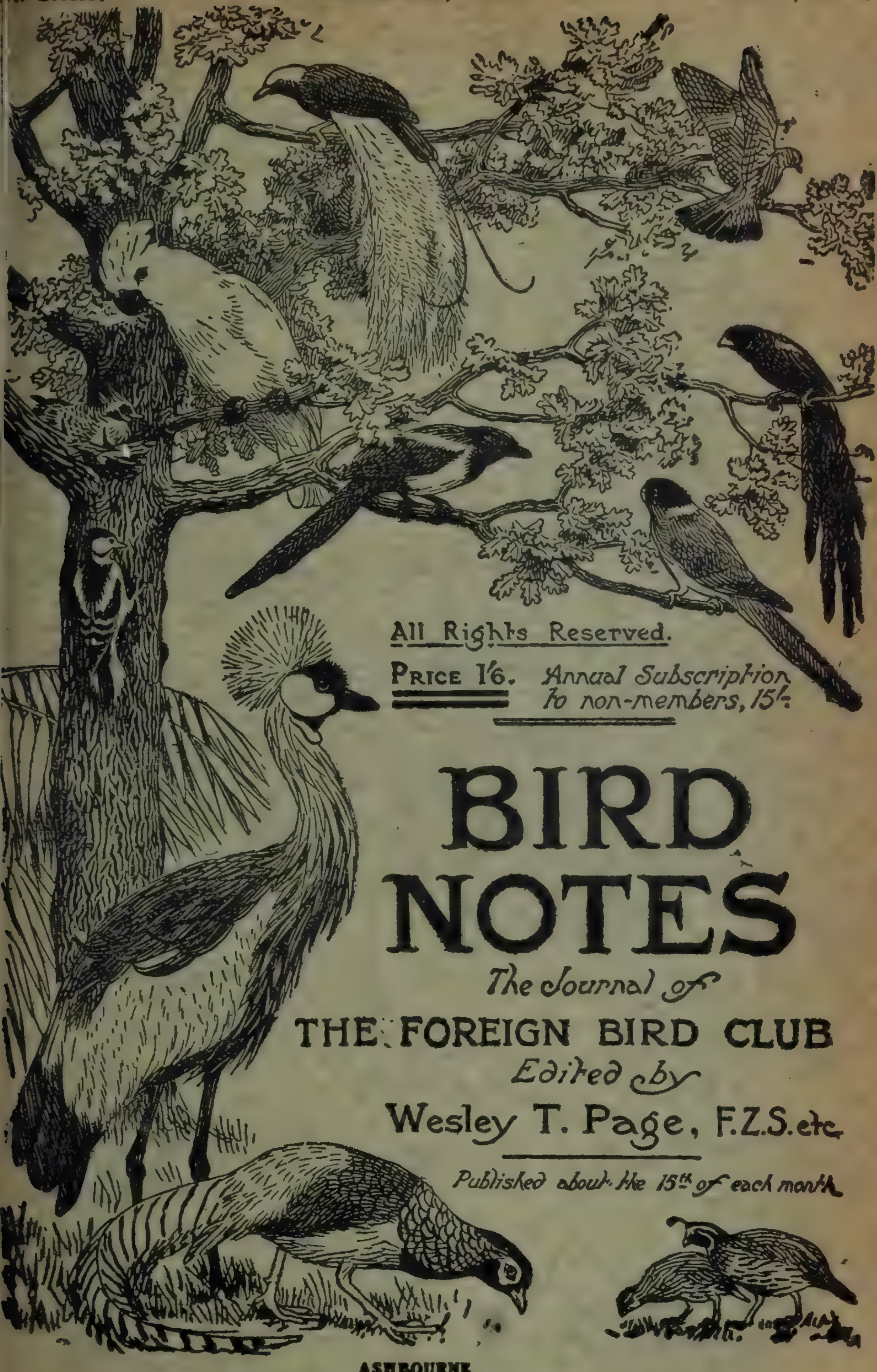

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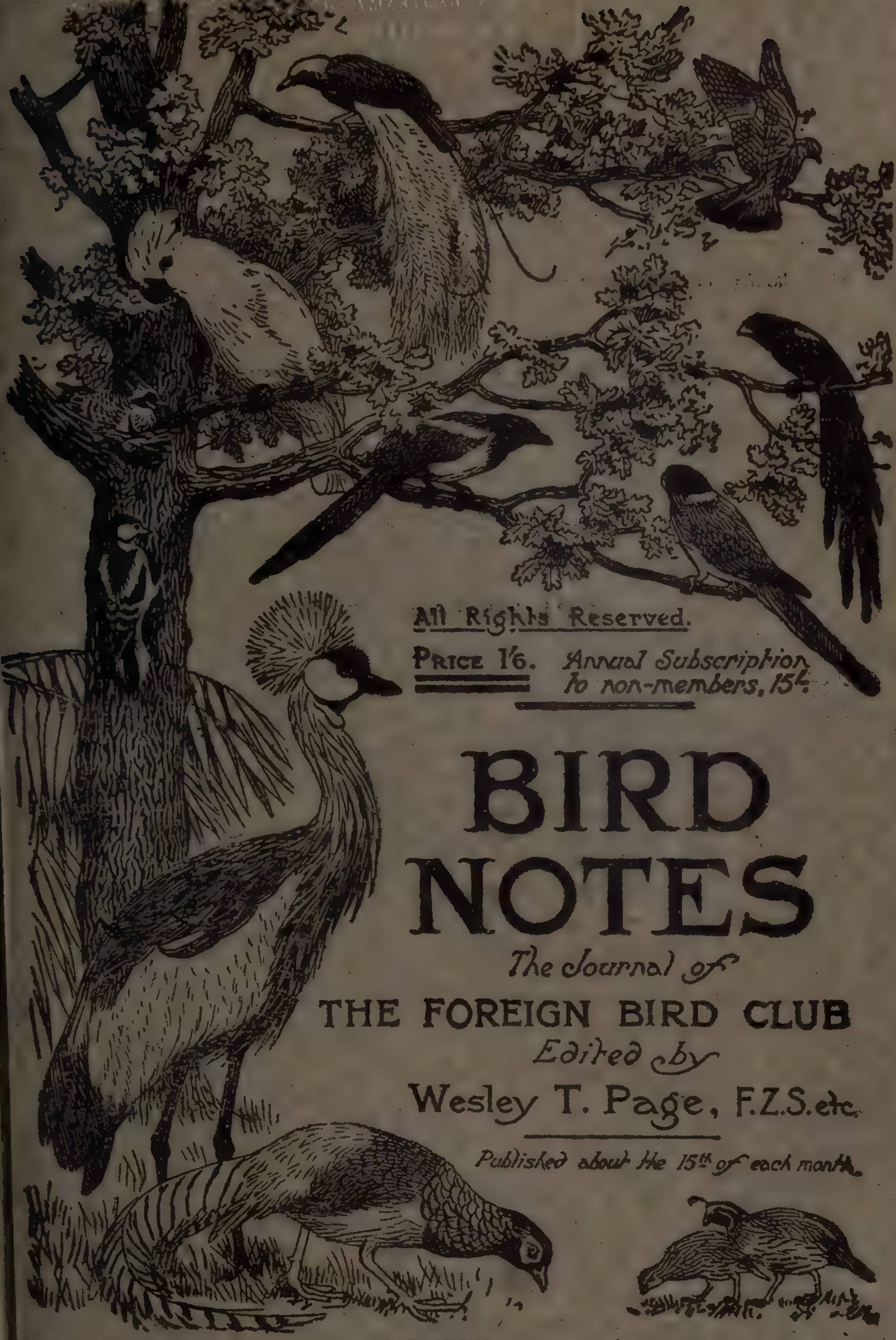

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Published about the 15th of each month.

ASHBOURNE
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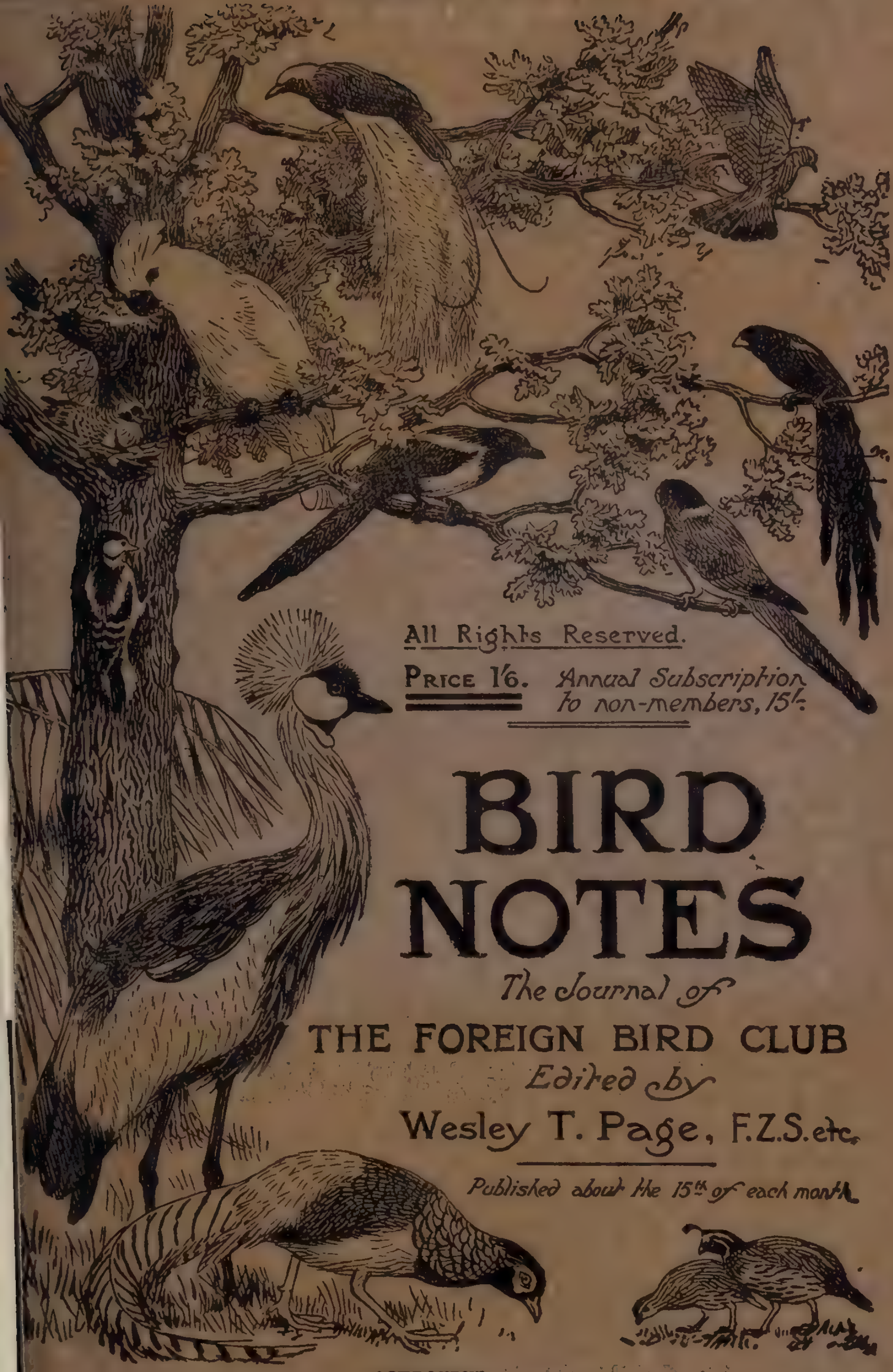

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